

# The Apache

SPRING  
2001

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



## Inside

- TJC's History of Board Leadership
- Las Mascaras Plans First 75th Reunion
- A List of 75th Anniversary Events





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## ***2001 Alumni Calendar of Events*** ⌚

- May 12** ♦ Graduation Commencement and Alumni Reception  
**June 1 & 2** ♦ Reunion for Las Mascaras 75th Anniversary  
**June 9** ♦ Circle of Honor Awards Banquet, Golf Game and Cookout  
**September 17** ♦ Founders' Day Celebration  
**October 27** ♦ Reunions and Alumni Homecoming Awards Luncheon  
**April 26, 2002** ♦ 75th Anniversary Gala



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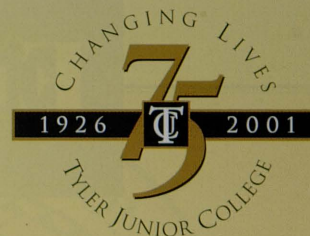
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*You can now download our application off the Alumni web page, check out additional reunion pictures, and leave your favorite TJC memories for former classmates.*



# The Apache

Spring 2001  
Vol. 17, No. 2



## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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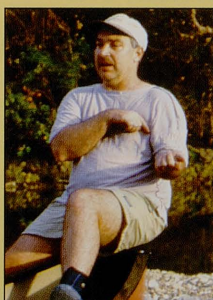
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## **In this issue ...**

This issue officially kicks off the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Tyler Junior College. Over the next few issues we will be highlighting some of the unique qualities and important milestones of this institution. It's a grand time and we invite you to join in our celebration.

We believe you'll find the stories we'll be bringing you over the next year to be heartwarming and fascinating. In this issue we feature the upcoming reunion of the institution's oldest student organization, Las Mascaras; a recent reunion of one of the College's premiere performance groups, Harmony & Understanding; and a truly memorable reunion of former Apache basketball greats that occurred in February.

We also pay tribute to the great leadership the College has enjoyed from its Board of Trustees and learn of recent financial contributions from Board members which will further the educational opportunities of our future students.

You will also meet a great instructor who has made a significant contribution to a field in which women are not traditionally prominent. This exception is someone who teaches surveying as well as having led the way for extracurricular learning activities in surveying for her students.

We are also presenting a fun and inspirational photo essay and story about a field trip taken by a group of participants in our seniors program. This doesn't mean seniors in high school or college—it means folks who have already made great progress in their full lives, and this trip is no exception. See what a great time they had canoeing down an Arkansas river with TJC instructor Jack Caddell.

President Dr. William R. Crowe has been on the TJC campus for 17 of its 75 years. Read his perspective on the qualities which make TJC unique as the institution prepares to celebrate its grandest anniversary ever.

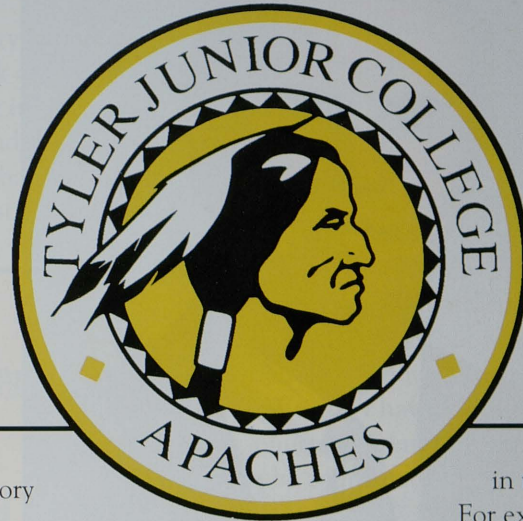
As usual, you will find sections about campus activities, athletics and performance groups and news from the development and alumni offices.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of the *Apache* commemorating the 75th anniversary. Look for additional stories chronicling the College's history over the next three issues.

The Editors



# from the office of the PRESIDENT



## AFFECTING CHANGE

Dr. Bill Crowe  
reflects on  
Tyler Junior  
College's  
rich history.

*Interview  
by Rick Diamond*

**Apache:** TJC has a rich history of tradition. What, from your vantage point, are some of the highlights of TJC's 75 years?

**Dr. Crowe:** Well, I think certainly our start in 1926 was a great milestone. Beginning in the public school system of Tyler was an important undertaking – and then that was built upon when in 1946 the College broke away and began on its own. We passed a bond issue to create a separate junior college district, built what is now known as Jenkins Hall and moved the College to this site. From there, the continuing development of the school is a series of milestones and historical events. And it is more than just a lot of buildings we've added. At the end of World War II the enrollment took off and expanded with the influx of veterans returning from the service. That's when a large number of students came, and from that point on, we've seen our enrollment grow.

**Apache:** When you talk to people about who have been involved with TJC from a community standpoint or as alumni, how do they associate their feelings and impressions of the College and its heritage?

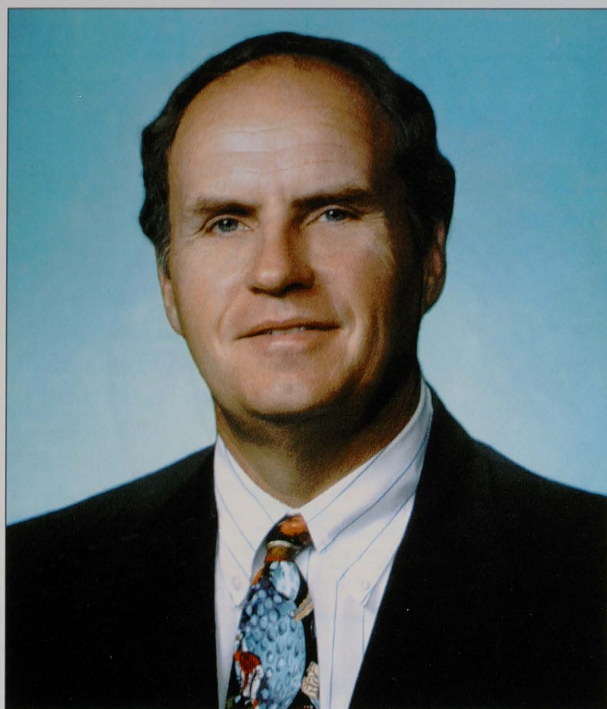
**Dr. Crowe:** I think most of all, the thing that impresses people about the ongoing role of TJC from a long time ago until now, is the people. It's about the people—connections they made when they were here, with the faculty and staff of this institution who made a difference

in their lives. For example, Dr. Blanche Prejean just passed away, and she was a longtime publications director and journalism instructor here. When you hear stories about someone like Dr. Prejean, or J. C. Henderson, who was a chemistry teacher for a long time, or Coach Wagstaff and the athletes who were involved with him—I think it's those individual connections that these students made that they needed. It's those kind of connections people in the community have made along the way with the faculty and staff, that make TJC what it has become. The difference, I guess, was those individuals who touched their lives. And the great thing is that many students of today are still making those connections with our faculty.

It's not usually about the College in general—its programs, its structures—but the people that students came into contact with. That's what TJC's history is really about. It's about a specific individual or group—"Boy, it was wonderful being part of" whatever group—a student who was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, or an Apache Belle, or Harmony and Understanding. It's those experiences, maybe a teacher who turned on the light bulb—that's what we're here for.

A local dentist, Britt Ruby, describes himself before he came to TJC as an "average student," unmotivated I think is how he put it, and then he came out





that now we offer so much more to the community and the region. We're now much more involved in the economic development of the city, and offering job-related skills and that sort of thing in addition to the transfer work we do. And that's one of the things that makes it hard for us—the issue of our role, our identity. I was just meeting with our Board about the issue of visioning for the future. One of our challenges is the question, “How do we market ourselves to our potential students and our

**Apache:** If you had to pick two or three major components of what has made TJC distinct in its 75 years, what would they be?

**Dr. Crowe:** First would be the extracurricular activities we have offered for many years to our students. I'm including athletics in that category, the performance opportunities our students have through speech and theatre, Apache Belles, band, music, dance, and so on. I know that it helps the speech and theatre program when they want to recruit students to come here, to say to students that they are likely to be involved in a number of performances a year, even as a freshman. At a four-year school, they won't be appearing in any production for two years at least. They won't even see the stage. I think all those performance opportunities have made a great difference over the years.

I also think that we've been unique, because of the junior college aspect of our identity, regarding the number of students we've had who have gone on to medical school and other professional degrees and careers. We've had a terrific science program and other academic programs. We get a lot of feedback about the difference that the attitude of TJC has made for those kinds of students. It's been this way all along.

We've been blessed over the years with faculty who have taken students under their wings and really cared about their futures. One of our challenges in the future, is not to lose that passion. I think people came to TJC to teach and work, and over the years got into the community college movement because they had a passion for helping students. But as the organization in general has matured and expanded, there is a danger. We have to remember our purpose. We have to make sure that we hire faculty who share that passion. We can't take it for granted that the heritage of TJC over the years will be continued—we have to be committed to it.

And it's much easier in some ways to

here and took Judy Pilgrim's biology class, and got turned-on to that, and went on to great schools from here and became a successful professional. It's that one person that connects somehow to people.

**Apache:** What's the role, then, of TJC throughout its history in the community.

**Dr. Crowe:** It's evolved over time. Early on, TJC was really an extension of the public school system, relatively small. Students, who couldn't afford to go away or didn't want to go away, came here. And back then, most graduating students from high school didn't go to college. So TJC really spoke to the needs of local students. We gave them an opportunity to go to college when they wouldn't have. And for many years, we were the only higher education institution in the community, so we were the focus. The Symphony League started here, as did a number of other organizations that have made significant contributions to the cultural life of our community and region over those 75 years. TJC was instrumental in, and a big part of, the start of many of the most important things that have happened in Tyler and East Texas.

Over time, our role has expanded so

region?” We want the public to understand TJC as a transfer institution, the major role it has played in its 75 years, but we also want to emphasize the work we do in the vocational-technical field. Both are important.

**Apache:** How did that issue get worked-out over the years?

**Dr. Crowe:** For the greatest part of our history, we were primarily a two-year institution, the first two years of college. We were a junior college, the basis of a baccalaureate degree. And then in the 1960's and afterwards, as the idea of the community college emerged, we started to expand our role in the vocational/technical aspect of education. For the last part of the 75 years, we have been a mixture of both. But TJC is much different from other two-year schools. When visitors come to our campus, it looks like and feels like a college, with campus involvement and residence halls. So we're not like other two-year colleges. We are certainly unique in Texas, and I think in the nation. TJC always wanted its students to have a collegiate experience, to come here and study in a college environment, no matter what they are studying.



be a four-year school, especially one with selective admission criteria. But that's not why we're here. Our mission is to help students where they are, as they come to us. It seems easier in some ways to teach an English Composition course in which all your students scored high on achievement tests and so on. But there is something so rewarding about working with a student population, as we have, that is varied and large and full of a range of different kinds of people who are all here to learn. That's what TJC's history is really about.

I think most universities see the freshman and sophomore years as gates to mind, and faculty can come to see themselves as gatekeepers. Traditional college faculty teaching freshman courses see themselves as watching to make sure the people who *shouldn't come in don't get to*. But that has never been the attitude here, and I value that. We meet the student much more than halfway. We meet them where they are. That's why we're here.

**Apache:** It's great to hear the stories of faculty and staff over the years, such as Coach Wag, who took students under their wings and really brought them along. I suppose it was easier to do that when the College was smaller.

**Dr. Crowe:** Well, the bigger you get, the more difficult it is for the entire College to connect with students. That's why it's so important for faculty to play that role. They're in a position that other programs aren't. They see the students on a regular basis and can identify the students who have struggles. We have a great many programs to help students which are excellent, but students have to avail themselves to those services. Every student, on the other hand, interacts with faculty on a weekly or even daily basis. We have so many faculty who play that role now, as faculty here have done for our entire history. It's that individual relationship, again, that makes us distinct.

**Apache:** Given the role that TJC has played for 75 years, what is most important in continuing that legacy?

**Dr. Crowe:** I think it's very important that we hire, as we look at the retirements that are coming in the next 10–15 years, faculty and staff who are passionate about what we do. That passion is not to be lost. This is

**“TJC was instrumental  
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have happened in Tyler  
and East Texas.”  
—Dr. Bill Crowe**

not a place just to come to work; we want our employees to feel rewarded for what they do. Their biggest reward for coming to work isn't monetary; instead, it's in the sense of making a difference in what they do as a part of TJC. They need to see that people are growing and that they are making contributions to people's lives. We have to bring people into the family who want to be part of that heritage. The other thing we must do is to

work on TJC's development. It's so crucial that we raise our endowment in order to keep the institution as unique and strong as it's been. We must continue to keep TJC strong. We need substantially more support for the organizations than we've had in the first 75 years. And that's why we have the goal of having a \$300 million endowment on the table. It would be nice to be able to fund scholarships for students, to privately fund athletics and all the other activities, so that when state appropriations are down, we aren't in trouble. We don't have to worry then. It makes a huge difference. It helps students be connected to the College.

**Apache:** How has TJC changed in the 17 years you've been at the College?

**Dr. Crowe:** Wow. Well, TJC has become more innovative in many ways. We're still learning to be responsive to students' needs. We're trying to be there for students where they are. We're less traditional than we were, without giving up the traditions that have made TJC great. When I first came here, we were beginning to see a lot of the trappings of a university—“Here's what we offer; if you like it, great, and if not, go somewhere else.” TJC had never been like that, and we want to be sure we don't give that image to anyone ... We're more adaptive and accommodating now. For instance everything doesn't have to fit into a 16-week semester. We offer distance learning and internet learning. We're also more creative in what we offer, how we schedule classes. We're trying to be more creative, and at the same time, maintain the best parts of our tradition.

What I hope we're keeping in mind all along is that TJC is a place where students grow and learn, and where employees enjoy working and feel that they're making a difference.

**Apache:** And that's what TJC has been about all along.

**Dr. Crowe:** Exactly. I think that's the best part of the College. 🏠



# Patti Williams

## Surveying Pioneer

By Nita Wilson

**H**atchets and poles on tables are surrounded by computers in Pirtle 118 on Monday mornings.

The unusual combination of primitive tools and high tech are part of the surveying class taught by former professional surveyor Patti Williams, who was also TJC's first female student in surveying.

Her path to TJC was circuitous. Her dad had asked if she would rather have a car or to go to SMU.

She chose the car and San Angelo State University.

Although she studied history, one of her first jobs in East Texas was with the project for long distance direct-dial telephone service. "I worked with the surveyors and loved it," she said. "Surveying is applied math, and it is so much fun." She learned that TJC offered an associate degree in surveying, and she applied.

"They almost had a heart attack," she said. That was in 1972, and the program director, Colonel Ernest E. Hendrix, who had served with General Patton, had to get permission from Dr. Harry E. Jenkins, TJC president, for her to take her first surveying class. Since she had already studied at San Angelo State, she was surprised that she wasn't admitted immediately. "They had a conference and decided it was okay," she said with a laugh. "He made a good decision."

After completing her internship with John Cowan and Associates, she was recruited by Exxon Corporation. The company needed a female surveyor to meet Affirmative Action goals. "They looked all over and I was the only one, so they hired me," she said. "I loved it, and I think it was a good experience for both the company and for me," she added. "I got

my professional license a year after I went to work for them. If I had failed, I would have had to leave the country! There was so much pressure. Everyone was watching."

In 1985, she accepted the opportunity to return to TJC to direct the surveying and mapping technology programs David Pena had started more than 40 years earlier. Presently, surveying is still a predominately male occupation. "There shouldn't be a reason except for the bias," Ms. Williams said. "People drive down the highway, and they see a survey crew collecting data. They don't know that person is actually working for a registered professional land surveyor. They're just collecting data that's going to be used in many different ways," she said.

Although some aspects of the profession have not changed since George Washington studied surveying two centuries ago, the field has not escaped



*Patti Williams at her desk.*



the broad touch of electronic technology. Many students who enroll for the class want jobs working outdoors. They're surprised to learn that a large percentage of their time is spent in front of computers. They use Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the mapping system used by 9-1-1, hospitals, foresters who manage natural resources and demographers. In addition, Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite technology provides latitude, longitude and elevation.

Plus, they learn the basic elements required of a land surveyor such as boundary measurements, evaluation of property corners and calculation of land areas as well as mapping, route surveying, history and dendrology to provide part of the formal training required for a professional license. A one-year certificate of proficiency is available to students who complete certain designated courses.

Moreover, the legal principles are a surprise to many people. Sophomore students read and make presentations on 50 Supreme Court cases. "Surveyors have to be experts in legal issues involving land disputes, and it helps if they practice making courtroom-type presentations," she said. Only one other community college in Texas offers a surveying program like TJC's.

However, Williams believes the success of former students helps sell the program. "One of my students who graduated last May is earning \$100,000 a year mapping the Gulf of Mexico

with radio waves. He's driving the boats from the computer room."

She said TJC students are heavily recruited because they understand special relationships and coordinate geometry. "A company can take them in and put them in a month-long training period on some of the most high-tech equipment in the

*"I have students who graduated ten years ago, and they still come to me wanting to know where the best jobs are. We have a wonderful support system."*

*—Patti Williams*



*Williams in the classroom setting.*

world. They have such a good foundation in applied math and mapping. It's not unusual for us to have two recruiters a week."

Furthermore, Williams has her own industry network. "I have students who graduated ten years ago, and they still come to me wanting to know where the best jobs are. We have a great relationship—a wonderful support system," she said. The TJC surveying program is "very strong, and it's well-respected."

Williams said surveying is a small program that receives a lot of attention. "I always feel a little guilty because I know it's not anything I've done by myself. I've had wonderful support. If I need some resources at the library, I pick up the phone or e-mail, and I've got it. If I need money for a field trip, I call my advisory committee members, and they make the arrangements for me. Although I'm the only full-time teacher in this department, it's the strength behind me that's made us successful."

Last year, in order to attract more students, the Surveyor Education Foundation and TJC contacted surveying companies and high school counselors, awarded scholarships and organized a Surveyor's Camp where applicants chosen by a review committee spent an all expenses paid week at the College learning all facets of surveying. Seventeen people from across the state participated. After the success of last year's camp, Williams hopes to have 50 participants in the camp scheduled to be held June 3-8.



Tim Gill, director of engineering technology, said the challenge is to show young people what the field is all about and to attract enough students to meet the needs of employers. "We know we can train people for the types of jobs the surveying community needs, but we can't get enough students."

He describes Williams as a very warm, enthusiastic person who enjoys working with young people and takes a lot of pride in the program. "Her enthusiasm keeps that program growing and makes it the success it is." He considers her an emissary for TJC throughout the state and a role model for females interested in the program.

Williams has been described by Gill and by Joan Jones, dean



*Shane Neally of Stanger Surveying of Tyler watches as a student in the 2000 Surveying Camp peers through a Geodimeter.*

every one of them has a scholarship; and if one of them misses registration, she calls to find out why," Jones said. "She feels responsible for making certain they succeed, and that's taking on a lot. She is a truly neat person." 🏠



*Johnny Ingram of Jefferson, Texas instructs camp participants. Williams said the surveying camp would not have been a success without the volunteer help from East Texas surveyors.*

of business and technology, as someone who is very close to her students. Fortunately, not as close as Gill first suspected.

Shortly after Gill first arrived at TJC, he stopped by Williams' office to discuss something with her. He was surprised to see a young man leaning over her desk and giving her a big kiss. "I didn't know what to think about that," he said. He was greatly relieved to learn that the young man was one of her sons.

In January 1999, Williams was awarded the George W. Pirtle and El Freda Taylor Pirtle Chair for Teaching Excellence. Teaching chairs are awards of \$2,000 per year for two years. Funds are to be used to enhance educational interests of the College and the instructor receiving the award. "It was a well-deserved honor," Gill said.

Jones said Williams is the kind of employee she wishes she could "clone."

"She makes sure that every student understands what is being taught; she makes certain that every student has a job when they graduate; she does everything she can to see that



*A representative of Leica Company, poses with camp students and a Leica GPS Rover.*



# Senior Trip!

by Nita Wilson

**F**antastic." "Fun." "Lovely." "Really wonderful." These were just a few of the reactions area seniors had about their week in the great outdoors as sponsored by TJC's Seniors College last October. It was a different kind of "senior trip" for an educational institution—and a different caliber of tourist as well.

The primary focus of the expedition was a canoe trip down the Buffalo National River in northwest Arkansas. Participants were East Texans age 50 and older who registered as part of the growing Seniors College program, operated by TJC's School of Continuing Studies.

Fall colors and crisp air made the timing perfect. The leadership of Jack Caddell, TJC director of health and kinesiology, made the trip a bona fide learning experience.

Jan and Gary Lemmon love to travel and hike. "I believe in keeping minds and bodies active," she said. Being outside and on or near the water are dear to her heart. Nevertheless, for her, highlights of the expedition included meeting new people and making new friends. "They were all wonderful," Mrs. Lemmon said.

The nightlife in Gilbert, Arkansas—population 40 or so—offered less than the Lemmons have become accustomed to during their travels across the United States and Europe. However, they quickly found entertainment in the company of other travelers.

Cards and dominoes were kept lively by the interaction of the eleven "students" of Caddell. "We were like kids," Mrs. Lemmon said. "We giggled all the time."





Carol Markel echoed Mrs. Lemmon's sentiments about the comical side of the trip, recalling a particularly humorous moment when the group was spotted by a married couple from Kansas, while at a rest stop. The couple had apparently been surprised to learn that these travelers from Texas were on a "college" excursion.

The obvious reaction was to inquire about the average students age at Tyler Junior College.

Mrs. Markel said she also enjoyed seeing Indian caves and the beautiful scenery. Naturally, since they weren't hunting, they also saw deer. In addition to the outdoor activities, Mrs. Markel enjoyed meeting new people and building memories. She said she would love to go again. "I had a great time," she said.

However, one of the people not laughing when the trip began was her husband, Paul Markel. Could it be that once he heard of his wife's plans that he had expected a vacation like a Chevy Chase movie with terrible food and disaster lurking at every bend? "I was not happy at all," he said after he returned from a vacation viewing the magnificent Vermont foliage to find a credit card bill for the Seniors College trip.

Although he served on a rocket ship in the South Pacific during World War II, he had never been on a canoe trip, and it apparently wasn't on his list of things to do. The former U.S. Navy signalman does not swim, and a trip down the Buffalo National River was not his idea of a good time.

Nevertheless, he succumbed to peer pressure. Three other couples, who were Sunday School class friends, were also going, and the trip turned out to be a pleasant surprise. "We had a good trip up in the van," he said. That was, until he saw the Riverside Café—the only restaurant near the house where the group was staying in Gilbert. He recalls that he expected the worst. He was pleasantly surprised when the owner met them at the door. "The food was out of this world. It's the best I've eaten in a restaurant in a long time," he said.

He was also thankful for the practice session in the canoes before the river trip. Unfortunately, on the real journey, the canoe stuck. When he climbed out of it, he slipped on a rock and fell into the water. "It was an experience I won't forget," he said.



Nevertheless, he agrees with his wife that it was a good experience and an excusable credit card purchase. "I hate to admit it, but I would judge it A-1," he said. Although he is interested in taking another senior trip, he is adding a caveat. "No more canoes!"

For former Boy Scout leader, Dick Hudson, canoeing was the reason he took the trip. "This was my third time to canoe on the Buffalo River, and it was great!" He said the weather was perfect, and magnificent limestone bluffs flanked the river. He described Buffalo Point State Park as "fabulous" and one of the prettiest in Arkansas.

Although he had been to the area with Boy Scouts years before, he was not previously aware of the existence of two American Indian caves which members of the group explored. They were also intrigued by a shelter known as an Indian Rock House. "The Indians had huge over-hanging rock ledges that would have protected a couple hundred people," Mr. Hudson said.

At the time of the trip, the water level was low and exemplified the Asian yin-yang philosophy. It meant the currents were calmer, but paddling the canoes was more difficult.

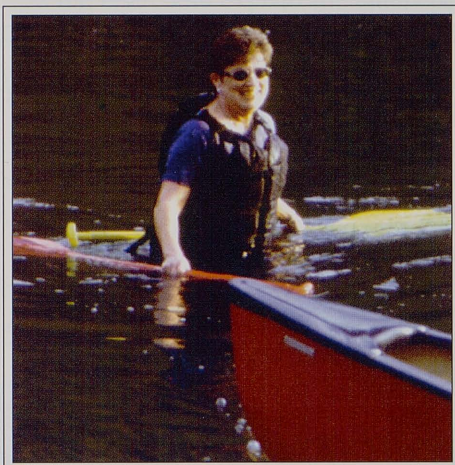
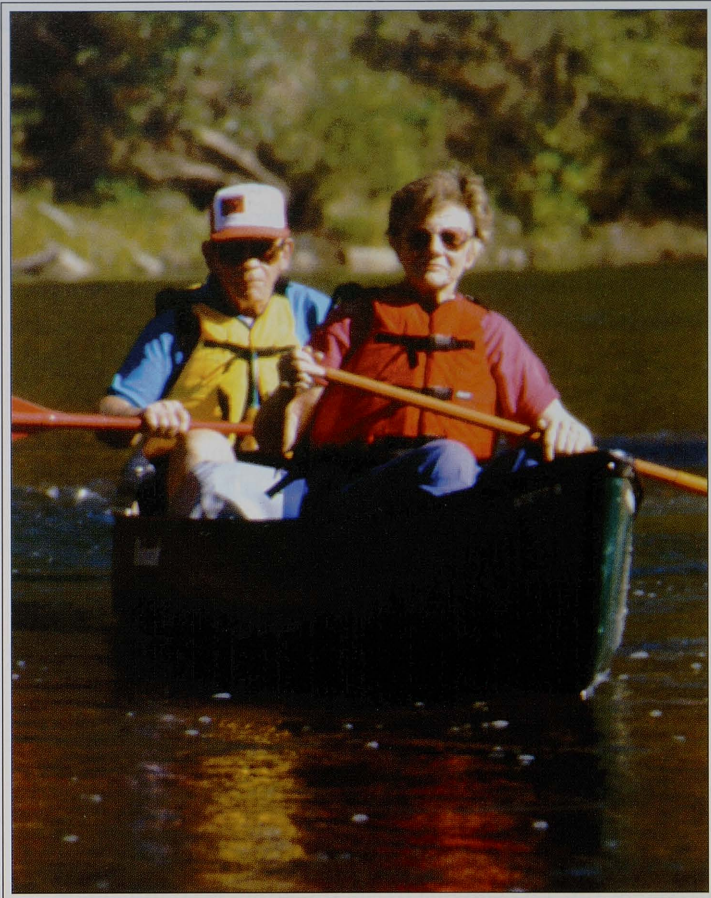
Hudson wisely chose to share a canoe with Caddell. "We didn't turn over at all," he said. However, at one point, they observed some canoers experiencing difficulty and headed to help. "I was just about to tell Jack he could probably walk over there faster when he came running by me," Mr. Hudson said.

"He was coming to help us," said Betty Whitaker. Her husband, Larry, and she had more experience in a canoe than most of the people on the trip; however, they were the first to turn over. "The weather was such that it didn't hurt to get in the water; other than our billfolds getting wet," she said.

"After we turned over the second time, I threatened to leave him and walk home," she said with a laugh. The river was so low, it would not have required a miraculous feat. "Sometimes we







had to get out and push," she said.

They had been to the Buffalo National River before, and liked the area. "It was fun being with a group of people. We really enjoyed the trip," she said. Mrs. Whitaker took her binoculars to search for eagles.

"We saw one that

flew down river," she said. "A short time later, we again saw an eagle, but we didn't know if we saw the same eagle twice or if it was another one."

Like the Whitakers, Katherine Chambers thinks the Buffalo National River and the Ozark Mountains are magnificent. "I love Arkansas," she said. "It's a beautiful state!"

Ms. Chambers has canoed down the Rio Grande, and her friend, Pamela Steavenson, gives her credit for being great at steering the canoe. Ms. Steavenson and her son have been on rafting trips including one down the Guadalupe River. However, it had been at least 15 years since she had been in a canoe. Apparently, it's a lot like riding a bicycle. Once you learn how, you don't forget. "It felt good," she said. "It just came back to me."

However, she credits Caddell for giving her tips that helped make the paddling easier. "He was very helpful. He was jolly and very proper with everything," she said.

She and Ms. Chambers had no difficulty paddling seven miles down the Buffalo National River even with a few small rapids and the water level low. Although Ms. Chambers swims several times a week, she prefers the indoor pool at TJC. "We didn't tip over at all," she said.

"We only tipped over once," Sue Abbott said. Considering that she had never been in a canoe before and her husband, H.O., hadn't been in a canoe since 1951, that was quite an achievement. After Caddell showed the group what to do, the Abbotts were fine until they hit a swift current and flipped. "It was such a shock," she said. "We were literally upside down—completely immersed!" It became humorous after they realized they were alive and fine.

On another occasion, Mr. Abbott got out of the canoe to dislodge it from gravel in a low water level area. Mrs. Abbott felt the canoe shift and thought he had hopped into it. "I took off," she said with a chuckle. He took off too, and, fortunately, he ran faster than she paddled.

He said he wasn't worried about being left behind. "I knew I could catch her." He wasn't worried either when they were trying to find the location where they were to dock. "We were getting tired, and a few people were concerned that we had passed the stopping point." Some speculated the sign had been moved. "I figured we could camp out on shore." The retired minister considered himself well equipped to survive. "I had my pocket knife and a candy bar," he said.

Mrs. Abbott told the group's leader she was confident he would find them. "We had your boat," she explained.

The leadership of TJC's outdoorsman won rave reviews. "Jack took care of us," Ms. Steavenson said. She said he was interested in each person and very observant. For instance, he observed that she did not eat much meat. "When we had pizza, he made one piece without meat for me," she said. "He





noticed even little things and made the trip enjoyable for everyone."

Others also offered their commendation of the guide.

"Jack did a great job," Ms. Chambers said.

"Jack is very well organized," Mr. Hudson said.

"The guide was helpful and knowledgeable," Mr. Markel said, and his wife agreed. "The leader was very nice."

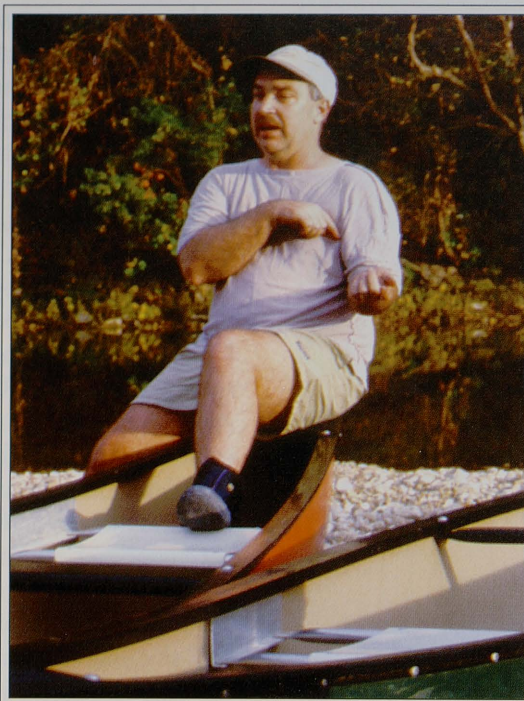
In 1972, the Buffalo River became the first designated National River in the United States. It is one of Caddell's favorite places. A certified Wilderness Responder with 20 years experience as a facilitator for group wilderness excursions, Caddell has taken groups to Colorado, New Mexico, Belize and Jamaica. He likes the proximity of Buffalo Point to Tyler and the advantages it offers. "You can leave Tyler at 6 a.m. and enjoy a wilderness environment by lunch," he said. "It's easily accessible by canoe for people who can't carry backpacks for long distances."

The Buffalo National River is a Tom Sawyer/Huckleberry Finn type river—flat, moving, clear and beautiful—and he considers it a perfect spot. "It's a great place to fish, and I've seen bald eagles, wild turkeys, bear tracks and mink," he said.

Perhaps most importantly, the people are wonderful. "The park rangers, park service employees, and the workers in the businesses will do everything they can to help," he said.

One of his friends, photographer Randy Dodd, also enjoyed the trip and was welcome company to the senior travelers. The group reported that having him along made them feel like celebrities. "He was just delightful," Mrs. Lemmon said. "He has a darling sense of humor."

For Dodd, the assignment was one of the most enjoyable of his career. "I had a great time," he said. "Experiencing the natural environment of the river was magnificent. Arkansas's slogan is 'the natural state.'" Dodd was delighted to find that most of the area along the river was truly natural and untouched by development. "There aren't any houses



*Jack Caddell, leader of the expedition.*

built along the banks," he said.

A Dallas resident, Dodd was amazed by the serenity on the river and the sounds of nature with no motor boats or jet skis. "You could hear the water," he said. "It was more relaxing than I could ever imagine."

In the evenings, the seniors taught him a new domino game and entertained him with their stories. "They came from diverse backgrounds, and many of them had traveled to different places," he said. "I really enjoyed being with them and getting to know them."

The Seniors College was established in 1997 as an adult education program within the framework of Continuing Studies. When Ken Ruether, director of the Seniors College, suggested an outdoor expedition for seniors, Caddell was brought into the discussions. Caddell knew Buffalo Point would provide the perfect outdoor experi-

ence. "I went with him to scout it out. It was great," Ruether said.

On the Wednesday morning departure date, when he arrived at the TJC campus to see the group leave for their outdoor adventure, he was impressed by the enthusiastic seniors. "It was a special group," he said. He is confident an expedition will become part of the Seniors College curriculum. "It was one of the nicest things we've done, and we're planning another trip in the fall. I'm not sure where we'll go, but we'll schedule something."

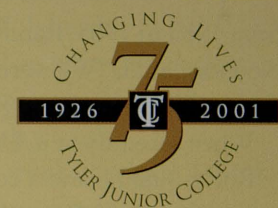
It wasn't the food, the scenery, the domino games, nor the canoeing that Mr. Abbott, who has been married 45 years to Sue, liked most about the trip. "I enjoyed being with my wife," he said. "It was nice to get away." ■



*Trip participants gather for a group photo.*



# HARMONY & Understanding a Family Tradition



by Shelly Roark

*It must have been*  
the lullabies.

What else could explain the family penchant for singing? The Rocha brothers and sister said their mom rocked and sang to them constantly as infants.

That must have started Randy, Gina and Chris on the performance path—a path that would lead all of them to the stage with Tyler Junior College's Harmony and Understanding.

Of course, it could have been time spent

listening to church choirs as children or watching their parents sing. Or, maybe it was because they began singing as toddlers in church. Whatever the reason, the Rocha clan made an impact during their years at TJC as members of Harmony and Understanding.

"They were just all really, really talented," said Dr. Cheryl Rogers, the performance group's director.

Last fall, the Rocha family relived the singing, dancing and fun of Harmony and Understanding during the group's 30-year reunion. But they remembered much more than the performances.

They joined other alumni from the group in sharing a little family history—with a lot of harmony and understanding. They explained what it was like to be part of a "family" on campus.

## A Family Act

"(Being a member of Harmony and Understanding) was one of the most fun times of my whole college experience," Gina (Rocha) Worley said. Mrs. Worley, now a speech pathologist at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, said members of the group "hung out together. We went out a lot."

When she was a member in 1982–84, Mrs. Worley said the singers often gathered at someone's home to work on performances and make up new routines.

She said they always had something going on. Her brother, Randy Rocha, was a member of the group



Left to right:  
Kara (Guinn) Curfman, Brenda  
(York) Cagle and Teresa (Petty) Evans.



from 1983 to 1985. Randy, who lives in Noonday, said, "We were one of the rowdier groups. We were always getting into trouble."

When asked about it, Dr. Rogers just smiled.

Rocha said he and a couple of the other guys in the group often walked around campus singing classical songs "for no reason."

They even held an "impromptu" memorial service on campus. "It had iced and the geese statues in the fountain of Wise Plaza broke. Word got around that we were going to hold a noon service for them," Rocha recalled.

He said quite a crowd gathered for their rendition of *I'll Fly Away* and *Ode to Flight of Geese*. The irreverent service even included *Taps* played on the trumpet. From weird noises on-stage to a guys' Gladys Knight and the Pips routine, the group kept audiences and director Rogers guessing.

Younger brother Chris Rocha joined the "act" as a member of Harmony and Understanding from 1992 to 1994. "I saw my brother and sister in it and said, 'I know I want to do that.'"

In fact, the younger Rocha carried his abilities one more step—to the professional level. Rocha earned a bachelor of fine arts from Southwest Texas University with a specialization in acting. In January, he enrolled in the Stella Adler Conservatory in New York to pursue his master's degree.

"I love musical theater," he said.

Already, Rocha has worked for the Austin Music Theater. He has worked in professional productions of the *West Side Story* and *Peter Pan*. He played the lead role in *Harvey* and worked on *Fiddler on the Roof* and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Rocha's memories of Harmony and Understanding are just as colorful as those of his brother and sister. One memory in particular involved Elvis, a retirement home and a very zealous performance.

Rocha remembers: "One time I was playing Elvis with this elaborate costume my mother made. I know they probably already thought Elvis was evil. Well, we had a big finish and I went into the (Elvis) pose. The whole crotch ripped out ... It was very quiet except for a rhinestone hitting the floor."

## Harmony with Lots of Understanding

Although that audience got a little something extra, Dr. Rogers said today's Harmony and Understanding group works to give a great performance with variety of styles. The group performs in all



Left to right: Chris Rocha, Randy Rocha, Tim Worley, Gina (Rocha) Worley, Kristi (Kleam) Sampson, J.W. Johnson, Julie (Wilson) Pharr, Ramona (Stewart) Walters and Dr. Cheryl Rogers.

styles of American popular music, from the beginning of this century to the present.

"One way Harmony has changed over the years is that we do quite a bit of dancing and lifts now," she said. Some students even play instruments in the act.

The students average about 25 appearances a year at events ranging from Dallas Cowboys half-time shows, to the State Fair of Texas, festivals, pageants, schools and conventions. They have performed in Washington, DC, Nice, France, Yachiyo, Japan and London.

This full-time effort has come a long way from a 1971 part-time job for founding director J.W. Johnson.

"I worked with Harmony and Understanding from 1971 until 1990," Johnson said. "I came in 1965 on a part-time basis. (Then-president) Dr. Jenkins wanted a choir. He asked me to come over for coffee."

Johnson had been in the insurance business, but led a Shriner male glee club. Dr. Jenkins was potentate of the Shrine Temple, so he recruited Johnson.

In 1971, Harmony and Understanding was born as a select group of students from the Concert Chorus who would perform popular music at special events.

"When you have a job like this, the memories are the great perfor-



Angie (Kindred) Smith and Dr. Rogers.



mances. You almost always do better than you expected," Johnson said.

Dr. Rogers—who was first Johnson's student, then assistant, associate director, co-director and now director—said, "It is interesting how many of the students are now teaching music or in the music business in one form or another." Dr. Rogers noted that the list of singers-turned-professional includes Donna Bullock, star of stage and screen. Bullock broke from a busy performance schedule in New York to return for the November reunion and to be honored as an Outstanding Young Alumna.

## Music in the Blood

Tim Worley, a member of Harmony in 1983–84, could not seem to get performance out of his blood. After leaving TJC, he graduated from Stephen F. Austin with a degree in finance and joined the business world.

"I was a square peg in a round hole," he said. After three and a half years on a job he did not enjoy, Worley quit, studied voice and acting and went after his passion.

"I've had pretty good success," he said.

Worley has toured all over the country with singing musicals such as *Oklahoma*, *Camelot*, *Cinderella* with Phyllis Diller and *Music Man* with Barry Williams. He also worked on a production in New York City.

That's a long way to come for a TJC president of the student senate who had never really sang before joining Harmony and Understanding.

Angie (Kindred) Smith from 1984–86 and Kara (Guinn) Curfman from 1985–87, both said performing was contagious. Mrs. Smith now teaches piano in Whitehouse and Mrs. Curfman teaches voice at TJC and works in a performing arts studio in Whitehouse.

Ramona Stewart, a member of the group from 1983–84, said the performances helped her in her career. "As a music major, I studied Italian in voice. Also, I was doing pop in Harmony. It gave me the ability to sing both ways."

Now, Mrs. Stewart teaches music at a private studio in Huntsville. She is also a contemporary Christian artist. Mrs. Stewart remembers a time when she also learned a little

about stage presence from director J.W. Johnson.

"He gave me a new song just a few days before we performed at a high school. I went blank during the song. He just kept on playing, he wouldn't stop," she said with a laugh.

"Whenever I think of school, I think of Harmony. It was fun to sing and the relationships I made (were wonderful)," she said.

## A Match Made in ...

Many of the former performers said they still keep in touch. In fact, some of them discovered an even closer relationship during Harmony and Understanding—marriage.

Julie (Wilson) and Roger Pharr, 1983–85, said their romance started in Harmony. "We were getting ready for a pops concert and needed some filler (performances). Roger asked me to sing a duet, a love song," Mrs. Pharr remembers. "He was too chicken to ask me out

and thought we would at least have to practice together."

Gina and Tim Worley were another couple from Harmony. "We were partners in Harmony first," Gina said.

During the reunion last fall, Harmony and Understanding former members shared many more stories of love, friendships, mistakes and fun—just like a family ...

**"Whenever I think of TJC, I think of Harmony. The relationships I made were wonderful."**



*Stage and screen star Donna Bullock, center, joined Harmony & Understanding during the Homecoming activities in November. Pictured with her are: standing, left to right, Bradley Starling, Josh Reneay, Don Evans, Betsy Killion, Jennifer Postel, Jason Cutting, Donna Bullock, Jeremy Ogea, Chrissy Jacobe, Andy Moers, Ishah Floyd, Clay Parker, Quan Powers, and Dr. Rogers; kneeling, left to right, DeAnda Frost and Holly Denby. Not pictured was Katy Dickson.*



# Las Mascaras

## A Tyler Junior College

original turns 75 years young this year.

Never the shy one, Las Mascaras, will host a birthday bash worthy of the spotlight—appropriate for the campus speech and drama club.

In 1926, students and faculty started from scratch to create a drama support group on campus. On June 1–2 this year, current and former members will celebrate that effort and success.

Dr. David Crawford, director of the TJC speech and theater department, said the two-day event will feature an original full-length play by Crawford, receptions, lunch, videos, slide shows and scrapbooks.

### A Club of their Own

French and Spanish instructor Mildred Howell was the instigator behind Las Mascaras more than seven decades ago. Retired TJC vice president Dr. E.M. Potter, then a student, remembers the buzz among his peers.

"All the faculty talked about it. They had an organizational meeting and I was very much interested," Potter said in a recent interview. "I did theater at the old Tyler High School, both as an actor and behind the scenes."

"It was very much needed," he said about the club. Potter said he attended the first organizational meeting.

According to "A History of Tyler Junior College 1926–86," 20 people were at the first meeting—a pretty good turnout considering the entire school population numbered just over 90. Students offered ideas for the club.

Potter suggested Las Mascaras as the name for the new club, meaning "the Maskers." "The name seemed appropriate and it was selected," he recalled.

While a TJC student from 1926–28, Potter said "Las Mas" was his primary involvement. He remembers acting and working on sets.

"We started from scratch with the productions," he said.

The new speech and theater club was off and running. But after a decade, the involvement and interest began to wane just a little.

Then, along came Dr. Jean S. Browne.

### New Life

"I began teaching in 1948, the day the college opened in its new location. There was one building, Jenkins Hall," Dr. Browne remembers. "I started teaching English and speech. But when I taught speech, I threw in a little drama."

With a professional background in theater and drama, Dr. Browne, "wanted so badly to get back into theater."

"I never dreamed I would ever have a career in teaching. It turned out to be the joy of my life," the 90-year-old said as she paused during the celebration of Homecoming 2000, which included a special tribute to her.

Dr. Browne said Ms. Howell wanted Las Mascaras to go on but could not really continue it herself. "She was so sweet. She helped me work with the students and get back into theater. She turned (the club) over to me.

"She had to drop it, so I picked it up off the ground, dusted it off and away we went."

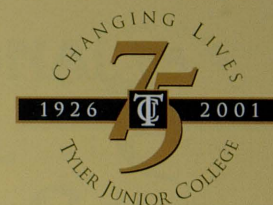
Dr. Browne remembers that the College administration

*A Homecoming reception in November drew a number of Las Mascaras members. Organizers hope for an even larger crowd in June.*





# plans a Summer Reunion



by Shelly Roark

"gave me a nice big room which we turned into a theater. (The students and I) built a platform, sewed curtains and hung them.

"One of the science students built me an electric box that turned the lights up and down. It was very exciting."

Soon they were ready for their first production. Dr. Browne said, "People would sit and wait until one performance was over. Then we would start again. I remember people sitting on the steps of Jenkins Hall waiting for the next performance."

"Doc," as the students called her, said that was the beginning of 46 years of TJC drama in her life. "There were so many wonderful, funny things that happened," she said.

"I'll never forget when we were putting on a play at the John Tyler auditorium. One of the students, Charles, got hold of a line that wasn't weighted. And it started to pull him up. We were changing the set. I had told the students to work in their stocking feet to cut down on the noise. It was very quiet. All of a sudden, I heard a whispered, 'Help, Help.' I grabbed his legs. We were laughing so hard," Dr. Browne said.

She said the students did it all: built sets, changed sets, worked on costumes and acted in the plays. "Often when I needed help building sets, I went to the dorms and grabbed a couple of guys. They were bored anyway. Once they helped, they enjoyed it and kept on. Anybody who was interested was welcome."

Dr. Browne said theater is important for every student. "I think it is the greatest thing for anybody. It helps them develop themselves and erases shyness and fear.

"We also began to join competition with groups of other colleges. And we began to win like mad. They still are winning."

Dr. Browne said she often visits the students and faculty of the theater department. "They still are family to me."

## A New Generation

Crawford said the purpose and fundamentals of Las Mascaras have not changed over the years.

"I was president (of the club) in 1970 and 1971. Our fundamental goal was the same as today—to support the speech and theater activities of Tyler Junior College. That has been the sole reason for its existence," he said. "It's that simple. And that is probably why it is still here."

Crawford said one addition to the goals of Las Mas is a student-sponsored scholarship of \$1,000 awarded annually to a returning sophomore.

He said the group has had many success stories with graduates working in the theater and drama profession, including Donna Bullock, Nick Wilkinson, David Wren, Bernard Cummings, Terry Gipson, Dex Edwards, Joan and Mitch Andrews and Joe Funke.

"(The members of Las Mas) are charged with a great responsibility. They work on plays, work on crews and get together as a social group to have fun, too," he said. "Students work hand in hand with faculty for the production on stage. The faculty, the speech and theater department and Las Mas are all one. The show must go on."

Crawford said he hopes the size of the reunion crowd in June surprises him. He urges former Las Mas members to make plans to attend. Those wanting additional details may call him at 510-2678 or 510-2211. ■

## Las Mascaras 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

### Friday, June 1

**6:00 p.m.** Pre-Show Reception, Jean Browne Theatre

**7:30 p.m.** *Artesia*, original full-length play by David Crawford, directed by Jacque Shackelford

**10:00 p.m.** Post-Show Reception

### Saturday, June 2

**10:00 a.m.** Coffee and Conversation in President's Conference Room (3rd floor, White Administrative Services Center)

**12 Noon** Lunch at Willow Brook Country Club

**2:00 p.m.** Alumni Performances (volunteers needed) and Gathering

**5:00 p.m.** Meal on your own

Cost for the weekend is \$15/person (or \$22/person, including an official T-shirt). For more information and registration, call Dr. Crawford at 903-510-2211 or the alumni office at 903-510-2371. Please RSVP by May 25.



# CHAMP

**I**n February, the College had the pleasure of hosting members of its 1949 and 1951 National Championship Men's Basketball teams. Members returned to the campus to receive their championship rings and to be recognized for their success.

1949—"Winning!" That's the response heard most often when a member of the Tyler Junior College 1949 and 1951 National Championship Basketball teams is asked to recall a favorite memory of the glory season.

Every player on the 1949 team and Jimmy Doggett, manager, and all 12 surviving members of the 1951 team along with the son and daughter of the late team captain, O'Neal Weaver, lined up down the center of Wagstaff Gymnasium February 3 to receive championship rings and to unfurl championship banners for both teams. The ceremony capped off a day filled with fond memories.

The ring ceremony/reunion evolved after Dr. William R. Crowe, TJC president, looked at possible ring designs for the Apache Ladies 2000 National Champions. He asked Herb Richardson, a member of the 1949 team and retired TJC Basketball Coach, to see his championship ring. "I told him we didn't get rings," Coach Richardson, co-captain of the '49 team said. Dr. Crowe immediately began plans to order rings and to arrange a reunion, a dream of the legendary coach of both teams, Floyd Wagstaff.

Following a luncheon where the players received framed team pictures, Richardson looked across the Apache Rooms. "They look like they could play," he said. "Some of them said we should play each other at the half-time." Richardson, whose

younger brother, Wilson, of Livingston, who was also on the squad, said all of the members of the team were like brothers. "This is probably the closest bunch from all over Texas that has ever lived together two years and played ball together."

TJC's first athlete to be chosen All-American, Coach Richardson takes no personal credit for the success of the team,



*The 1949 Apaches gather for a team photo before departing to Kansas in a plane offered by H.W. Snowdan, a Dallas oilman and former Tylerite. Standing are (left to right) Jerry Champion, Jack Revill, Ramon Orona, Herb Richardson, Jose Palafox, Bryan Miller, Kenneth Pemberton, Sid Holliday, Tyler Courier-Times sports editor Jim Dean and Brady P. Gentry. Kneeling are (left to right) Pilot F.W. Strine, Coach Floyd Wagstaff, Wilson Richardson, Buddy Matthews, David Rodriguez, Jimmy Doggett and Ted Hunt.*

a trait shared by the other players. "We were a team," he said.

Richardson and the other co-captain, David Rodriguez, of El Paso, had been Army basketball teammates. After completion of military service, Mr. Rodriguez, an All-State star on the Lanier High School, San Antonio state championship team, had planned to attend Texas A&M until Coach Wagstaff showed up at his San Antonio home. "Coach Wagstaff was the best recruiter ever," Rodriguez said.



# IONS

## TJC NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS GATHER

by Nita Wilson

His only appearances on the Aggie court were during the Texas A&M Invitational State Tournament which the Apaches won. He and Jose "Joe" Palafox were chosen All Tournament and Palafox was named Most Valuable Player.

Although he describes the team as "close knit," he said the hardest games were scrimmages against each other. "They were all outstanding players," he said. The only defeat that season was at the hands of Southern Methodist University freshman, 67-48. "After that loss, Coach Wag worked us to death," Rodriguez said.

The friendships Mr. Rodriguez developed in Tyler stand out most in his memory. "The people really supported us, and we played our hearts out for them," he said. "The Band, Belles and almost everyone went to Hutchinson, Kansas for the Championship game, and the whole town turned out after we brought home the first national championship trophy."

After Washington State cheerleaders distributed delicious apples to the fans during the championship tournament, U. S. Representative and Tyler Judge Brady Gentry, had roses flown to Kansas. "The Belles distributed flowers to everyone," Mr. Rodriguez said.

The royal treatment left a lasting impression on the young player. "We were treated like kings for a couple of years. It gave me confidence and a sense of success." Success that lasted team members a life time. Last year, Mr. Rodriguez was inducted into the Hispanic Hall of Fame in San Antonio.

Not only did Coach Wag convince Rodriguez to change his plans to attend A&M, he enlisted the towering center to help recruit Ramon Orono and Jose Palafox who had played on El Paso High School's undefeated state championship team.

Orono, now of Carrollton, first met Coach Wagstaff when he played in a high school North-South All-Star game. He said the reunion was a great opportunity to relive the dream. "It wasn't just playing basketball, it was the studying and the people of Tyler. It was very special," he said. "After the excitement wears off, the memory stays in your heart. It's beautiful."



*The '49 champs together again. From left to right are Jerry Champion, Buddy Matthews, Jimmy Doggett, David Rodriguez, Ted Hunt, Herb Richardson, Sid Holliday, Ramon Orona, Ken Pemberton, Bryan Miller, Jose Palafox, Jack Revill and Wilson Richardson.*

"I hadn't heard of Tyler until Coach Wagstaff talked to me," Palafox said. "There was something about him that was so down-to-earth. I knew what he was saying was true. That's why I came here, and I don't regret it one bit. It's the best thing I could have done."

Palafox, Bryan Miller and Jerry "Fireball" Champion were chosen All-American and All Regional Tournament at the NJCAA 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Championship in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and they were named to the All-National Tournament Team in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Miller, of Duncanville, said Coach Wag also knew how to "fire up" the team. During half-time of one of the national



tournament games, he told them it was the first time his mother ever saw a team that he had coached. "It wasn't right, but it woke everybody up," Miller said.

Champion, of Princeton, recalled one of Coach Wag's most unusual half-time talks came during the championship tournament with the Apaches trailing the Tartars of Compton Junior College, California. "Guys, I don't have anything to tell you. You're playing fine. They're just playing better. You have my permission to do whatever you want," Coach said. He then walked out of the locker room.

Champion said Miller was being guarded by Compton's best player and only had four points at the half. Miller, a 6' 3" forward, and 6' 9" center Orona decided to switch positions. It worked. Miller, known for sinking shots that today would be three-pointers, ended the game with 26 points.

The Apaches were playing without two of their top players, Herb Richardson and Rodriguez. Since they had returned to TJC mid-term in '47 after playing for the Army, they were ruled ineligible after the state tournament. Later, Coach Wagstaff learned they should have been allowed to play, Rodriguez said. "They didn't miss us. Everyone on the team was so good."

However, the Texans were a little concerned about facing Bayonne Junior College, New Jersey, and the intimidation increased when the bus that was scheduled to take Bayonne to the gymnasium broke down. After a call from the New Jersey coach, Coach Wag agreed to give the opponents a ride. Both teams were staying at the same hotel, but the Apaches were already on the bus when the New Jersey Clippers marched on board with towels over their heads like prizefighters. They were singing a fight song.

"We ran them out of the gym, and they had to ride back with us," Champion said. On the return trip to the hotel, the Apaches were the ones singing—after a 64-42 victory.

Champion recalls that Jack Revill, Granbury, was a star in the final game of the national tournament against Hutchinson Junior College, Kansas. "We thought three of us could beat them, but they were on their home court, and they couldn't miss," Champion said. "They were points ahead and stalling, and that was before the 30-second rule. We thought we were beaten, but Jack stole the ball, made a lay-up and was fouled. He made the free throw, and we won the Apaches' first National Championship, 66-64."

"I liked the final score," Revill said, without mentioning that he scored the final points. "We were a great team, and we were like brothers off the court." He and Miller, who lived in Duncanville at the time, had been high school teammates, but they quickly became friends with a former Dallas opponent, Sid

Holliday, Richardson. It didn't hurt that Sid had a car. "I didn't have to hitchhike to Tyler after he joined the team," Revill said.

Holliday said landing at Tyler Pounds Field in the DC-3 airplane H.W. Snowden, Dallas oilman and former Tylerite, loaned for the trip to Kansas was a thrill. They were surprised to see more than four thousand people waiting to greet them. "It was an honor that stayed with us the rest of our lives, and now seeing 11 guys I haven't seen in 50 years is one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Palafox drove a jeep from El Paso. "It was cold in the winter, but his father was a doctor, so he had the best music system," said Buddy Matthews, Jacksonville. He said Rodriguez, in tailor made clothes, was the best dressed and the greatest dancer. "We watched and admired," Matthews said. "We were all close on and off the court."

"We had a good team. I was in awe of them ... Herb,

Orono, Rodriguez, Palafox, Champion... all of them were great," said Kenneth Pemberton, Stratford. He really enjoyed seeing his teammates that he thought he'd never see again. "I hadn't seen any of them since we left in '49."

"The basketball players were a lot of fun to be with," Ted Hunt, Dallas, said. He remained close to Coach Wagstaff through the years. "He was a remarkable man, and it's wonderful to see the legacy he left."

1951—The Korean War was front page headlines when the basketball team captured the Sports page banner. Many cagers were serving Uncle Sam on the front lines, and that required Coach Wagstaff to utilize his renowned recruiting skills.

Prior to the 1949 national tournament, TJC played an exhibition game with outstanding high school stars. Three of the players, O'Neal Weaver, a unanimous all state star from Martin's Mill High School, Jimmy Browning, of Chandler and Freddie Whillock of Cayuga High School all became Apaches and played on the '51 championship team.

Judge Gentry often accompanied Coach Wagstaff on recruiting visits. J. W. Stuckey of Glen Allen, Virginia, who retired near Richmond after working for Mobil Oil Corporation in New York and Fairfax, said he's grateful for the opportunity to have known the two very special individuals. "They were very caring people. They were always reaching out to help other people."

Two other businessmen, Joe Zeppa and Chester Wynne, loaned two Beechcraft airplanes for the team to fly to and from the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. It was the first flight for Dr. Don Blavier, of Victoria, who was the team manager. "It was a good group, a very compatible group," he said. "Everyone got along well, and everyone went to classes."

Wilson Richardson said the season began with a small

*"It's a wonderful thing what they've done here ... I know Coach Wag is looking down at us and saying 'that's my boys.'"*



financial incentive. Tom Hancock, Nacona, suggested everyone contribute to a pool that would go to the player who scored the first goal of the year. The opponents got the tip, but Hancock stole the ball and made a crip shot. "I'm ready for my money," he said.

Smith Markham, Dallas, and Glenn Pearson, now of Hemphill were high school teammates who graduated early. "Coach Wag and Brady Gentry came to see us," Markham said. "They took us to dinner one night, and we signed up. We wanted to be Tyler Junior College Apaches, and it was one of the best decisions we ever made."

"We came in January '51, and they only had six players on the team. The rest of them had been drafted," Pearson said. "Smith and I played a high school game Thursday night, graduated Friday and came to Tyler Saturday and joined the team for a trip to Bryan that night to play Allen Academy," Pearson said. "We went on and won the National Championship in March."

Markham was surprised to learn that Sid Holliday and Ted Hunt, were members of the '49 team. "Ted's children were at Lake Highlands junior high school in Dallas when I was the principal."

The '51 Apaches defeated the neighboring rival Lon Morris Bearcats 76-53 in regional action for the right to go to the National Tournament.

Jim Dean, *The Tyler Morning Telegraph* sports writer, reported that Jimmy Browning, of Haskell, scored seven straight free throws in the Apaches 57-52 victory over South Georgia College in the first round of the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

One of the most exciting games came during the quarter finals when the Texans faced a Dodge City team. Jack Mosher, of Longview, who was named All-America, recalls the strategy with the Apaches trailing by one point with two seconds left. "Coach Wag told us to get the ball to Weaver. I passed the ball into Jimmy (Browning) at mid-court. He took a shot, and we all went in to rebound it, but he hit the shot."

An Apache was called for a foul, and the game was tied 60-

60. During the five-minute overtime period, Mosher, Weaver and Whillock all made baskets to lead the Kansas favorites, but Dodge City came back and were within one goal of Apache elimination. With 10 seconds to play, Whillock made a long court pass to Flores who was all alone under the net and easily scored for a 68-65 victory.

"It was tough getting there, but we won it," Browning, who was named honorable mention on the All-Tournament team said. Although his mother couldn't make the trip to Kansas to see his dramatic shot, she was among the thousands greeting them at the airport when they returned.

With her was a member of the team, Louis "Curly" "Cotton"



*All but two members of the 1951 champs returned to TJC for the reunion and ring presentation. Pictured are (left to right) Freddie Willock, Glenn Pearson, Loyd Kilpatrick, Earl H. Moore, James Richardson, Marcus Smith, Jack Mosher, Louis "Cotton" Jones, Tommy Hancock, Neal Weaver (son of the late O'Neal Weaver), Don Blavier, J.W. Stuckey, Jimmy Browning, and Laurie Graham (daughter of the late O'Neal Weaver). Elisio Flores is deceased and attempts to locate family members were unsuccessful.*

Jones, Tyler, who missed the trip to Hutchinson because of a ruptured appendix and listened to the game on the radio. He said the highlight of the '51 season was associating with players on the team, and he considered it a great honor to be with them.

He said he misses two of them, Elisio Flores, who was killed in a car accident and Weaver, who turned down professional offers by the Minneapolis Lakers and the Boston Celtics to be with his family, teach and coach. Weaver was awarded the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' Milestone Award for more than 500 basketball wins, and he also coached championship track and golf teams. He served as coach at Martin's Mill High School until the time of his death in 1990. "O'Neal was a great inspiration to me," Jones said. "He helped me shoot hook shots."

The players said O'Neal was one of the most gifted players



they knew. They credit their success to his great hoop shot and his ability to shoot as well with his left hand as he could his right. "He wasn't that tall, but he could shoot over anyone and score. The other team couldn't stop him. You got the ball to him and that was it."

O'Neal was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American team two years and all-star squad was chosen Most Outstanding Player of Regional Tournament.

After basketball season, Jones joined the Air Force where he also played. Although Coach Wag got him an early out in '55 and he returned to TJC, a back injury the following year ended his playing career, and he became an assistant to Coach Wag. He said he often visited with O'Neal and his wife in Canton.

"I really miss O'Neal," said Loyd Kilpatrick, Addison. "We felt invincible, and we thought the next group would win. We had no idea that would be the last championship team for 50 years."

However, his fondest memories of the championship season were off the court. While returning from a road trip to Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, the team spent the night in Natchitoches, Louisiana where a deep snow was on the ground. "After dinner, we looked across the river at the homes all decorated with Christmas lights," he said. "It was a beautiful sight."

During his last semester at TJC, Kilpatrick said he roomed with Eliseo Hernandez Flores. "He was a good basketball player," Kilpatrick said. Several years later when Kilpatrick was



*Members of the 1951 championship team unveil their banner during festivities at Wagstaff Gymnasium in February.*

returning to Texas from California, he decided to stop for the first time in Marfa and visit his good friend who had returned home after service in the Korean War. "When I got to his house, there were a lot of cars outside, and it was the day after he was killed in a car wreck," he said. About 10 years ago, he returned for a long visit with Flores's mother.

For years, Earl Moore, Centerville, who had also roomed with Flores, exchanged Christmas cards with Flores's mother. "I haven't had one from her for several years now," he said. "I don't know if he had any family other than his mother." Flores had spent many week-ends with the Moore family because Marfa was so far away, and Moore's home was only 90 miles.

The championship season was an enjoyable year for Moore, a self-described country boy. "We went everywhere, and it was a great experience. It was one of the highest honors I ever received in my life," he said. "We received jackets, but I think we're enjoying getting the rings more now than if they had given them to us 50 years ago."

Flores and Pearson were credited with controlling the backboards in the championship game against Northeast Mississippi that TJC won 93-75 for their second national title in three years. It was a game James Richardson, of Gary, nephew of two of the '49 champions, really liked. "I got to play in it," he said. "They ran the score so far ahead, all the benchwarmers got off the bench."

"It's a wonderful thing what they've done here," Richardson said, referring to the reunion, luncheon, reception and ring/banner ceremony. "I know Coach Wag is looking down at us and saying, 'that's my boys.'" 🏀



*Louis "Cotton" Jones, a '51 team member is presented his ring by Trustee David Lunceford.*



# Gifts *from the* Heart

## *TJC Trustees Continue to Provide Leadership Fueled by Passion*

*By Fred M. Peters*

It would be hard to imagine an institution of higher learning more richly blessed than Tyler Junior College.

For 75 years students of all walks and backgrounds have found TJC to be a great beginning to a rewarding career. But more importantly, so many have found that the connections made here were guideposts for their future, that the time spent on campus shaped their lives in a way that far exceeded preparation for a job.

It's a legacy only a limited number of educational institutions can boast, and it is one from which the College continues to reap rewards.

Ask most graduates of the 1940s, '50s, '60s and '70s what TJC means to them and they beam with gratitude and wonderful memories.

A remarkable number of these former students have returned to teach at TJC. Others have elected to give back to the institution they cherish by serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, by continuing to support the College's programs and activities, by returning to speak to students and even by establishing scholarships for future students.

Not surprisingly, the College's governing body has also been touched by the desire to "give back."

As TJC enters the year of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its Board of Trustees is comprised of four former students and five members whose connections to the institution are just as deeply rooted.

### **Natural Ties**

A.D. Clark, Jr. never attended TJC, but in his 50 years on the Board has seen literally thousands of students walk across the stage to shake his hand and accept their Tyler Junior College diploma. The senior member of the Board, Mr. Clark has felt the impact the institution has had on East Texas and has contributed countless hours to assure that it remains a vital part of the region. No other elected official in the state of Texas has amassed more continuous years of service.

"When I came on the Board, the college had just separated from Tyler Independent School District and rated well academically, but it needed vocational and technical courses and

to build more facilities," he recalled. "Through the years, talented and dedicated Board members have devoted time and effort and all worked in concert, without individual goals, to build the college as an institution."

David Lunceford began his college experience at TJC in 1952 and returned to be a bigger part of the school in 1994, when he was first elected to the Board. He accepted the challenge to seek election at the urging of TJC Coach Floyd Wagstaff, who reminded him of the debt he owed to TJC. Mr. Lunceford recalls that he came to Tyler with hope, size, athleticism and little else. Thanks to TJC and Coach Wagstaff,



he left here a football standout with a respectable college transcript and a bright future.

When he returned to "give back" with service as a trustee, he found himself serving alongside Mr. Clark. Different paths; same passion.

"When I came here as a freshman in 1952, A.D. had already been on the Board a year," Mr. Lunceford pointed out recently. "It's just amazing that a man would stay with it that long. ... Here's a strong, professional guy. He had plenty to do."

James Fair, first elected to the Board in 1982, did not attend TJC, but his family has long held the institution in high regard. His father, R.W. Fair, served on the Board from 1927 to 1938 and his brother, Wilton Harold Fair was a 1939 graduate who also served on the Board, from 1950 to 1956.

Hollis Pinyan, a trustee since 1996, did not attend TJC, but he has the college to thank for two of the most important years in the life of his wife, Mary.

"She always says those were some of the happiest times of her life," he said recently.

For Harold Beaird, the passion resonates back to years on campus in a much different capacity. Like Mr. Lunceford, he attended TJC immediately following high school. To these former students, serving on the Board is one way to ensure that its legacy remains.

"It is easy to say that I felt a dedication to the school because when I attended here it was very important to me personally. ... (Serving on the Board) seemed like an appropriate way to bring whatever skills I might have to the Board for its decision-making process," Mr. Beaird said.

Former students Peggy Smith and Ann Snyder also know the campus well. Mrs. Smith practically grew up here; Mrs. Snyder was a student at TJC for 10 years after moving to Texas from California. During that time she finished two associate degrees, one in criminal justice and one in speech and theatre. "I miss it. I miss the atmosphere and I miss daily being surrounded by youth," she said recently.

She says her interest in serving on the Board is due to her experiences as a student. "I wanted to ensure that we're always going in the direction of what is best for the student."

Mrs. Smith, the daughter of coaching legend Floyd Wagstaff and a Board member since 1999, has been connected to the College her entire life. It was more than her first college campus — as a child, the campus was her playground.

Coach Wagstaff often took her with him to his office in Jenkins Hall and to run his dogs on the football field. She rode her bicycle on the sidewalks, and on rainy days, the family laundry dried in the gym.

"I love Tyler, and I love Tyler Junior College. It's like family," she said. "I don't look at it just as an educational institution. I have a very personal interest in Tyler Junior College. It's something I feel very strongly in my heart. I have known many of the people here for years, and they've done

such a good job. From the bricks and the mortar, it is all something I care about, and I want to preserve and protect it."

She also expressed her appreciation for the dedication of her colleagues on the Board. "I don't think anyone on the board serves because they consider it a political avenue. I think they serve because of their commitment to the school and the people who are here."

## Giving Back

In various ways, each trustee has given back to the institution, not only through service on the Board, but through personal contributions that have helped shape and lead the College toward its next generation of students.

To ensure that the College's unique qualities remain for generations to come, the College recently launched a fundraising campaign to create a series of new scholarships. Perpetuating the future of characteristics which make TJC unique—Belles and Band, athletics, theatrical, musical and other performance groups—is the goal of the *Legacy Scholarship Series*.

Characteristically, it was a Board member who was the first to answer the call—even before the program had been named.

Trustee Harold Beaird established the first of the *Legacy* series with a scholarship named in memory of his former band director at TJC, J. F. "Doc" Witt. Each year a band student will receive the scholarship and be eligible to retain it for a second year.

"Personally, I feel confident in making gifts to the school because I know that they are well-managed," he said recently. "Giving to the school is going to result in good things happening. ... You look at the names of the buildings on this campus and you look at the names of the members of the Board in the past and they are one and the same in many, many cases. That shows that people not only are willing to give of their time but they also give of their resources."

The Pinyans were also quick to respond to the new scholarship series, establishing three *Legacy* scholarships: *The Hollis F. and Mary F. Pinyan*, *The Lillian H. Trotten* and *The Nora R. Pinyan*. Mr. Pinyan also serves on the Legacy Scholarship Committee, making calls to prospective donors.

As the new scholarship series was beginning, the College was completing another project begun 18 years ago: the *Presidential Scholarship* program.

Helping put the finishing touches on the *Presidential Scholarship* program, which now numbers 100 individual endowments, were Trustees Dr. Patrick Thomas and Dr. Eugene Allen.

After more than 30 years as a trustee and more than 50 years after completing his own education, Dr. Allen and his wife elected to create *The Eugene M. and Tobin Allen Presidential Scholarship* to help future TJC students. "Some of these students need an incentive," Dr. Allen said, recalling that he worked



many odd jobs while finishing his own college education.

Last year, Dr. Thomas established *The Mary Dale Thomas Presidential Scholarship* in honor of his wife. The scholarship was announced at the annual Presidential and Dean's Scholarship Dinner in October, a surprise to Mrs. Thomas.

"We have always been interested in education," he said. "Over the years I have assisted students occasionally on an individual basis. We felt that this would be a good way to assist other TJC students of the future."

For David and Nancy Lunceford, giving back to the institution was also a way to pay tribute to individuals who have had significant influence in their lives.

Last year, the Luncefords established *The W. Belton and Virginia Duckett Scholarship* endowment and *The Wiley Woodrow Jenkins Scholarship* endowment, choosing to memorialize the parents of Nancy Duckett Lunceford and a beloved long-time TJC instructor.

Both scholarship programs will provide a minimum of

\$1,000 per year per recipient or up to the total cost of the student's tuition and fees for the fall and spring semesters. As many as 12 students at a time could benefit from the endowments.

Dr. Wiley Woodrow Jenkins was a TJC history instructor from 1950 until his retirement in 1976. He served as chair of the TJC social sciences program for approximately 25 years. Mr. Lunceford described him as a caring and encouraging teacher who showed regular interest in the lives of his students.

"He was just a tremendous person and a tremendous influence. ... This has always been one of those things that we wanted to do and that we knew we would do one day."

The list of gifts to the College during the past year also includes the recent donation of 52 acres of land by Harold Beaird and family. The land, which will be used by TJC students studying horticulture, is valued at approximately \$425,000.



TJC Trustees gather with the 2000 NJCAA National Champion Apache Ladies basketball team, April 2000. Also pictured are Dr. Crowe, far left, and Apache Ladies' Head Coach Lee Ann Riley.



"That land's been in the Beaird family since the Civil War," Mr. Beaird said, adding that his family has long had an interest in education.

"My great-grandfather, who was the first one out there, was at one time a county school superintendent and that dedication was passed on down and my family right now feels the same way. So when an opportunity came along for the land to be used in a way that would be beneficial to the school and pleasing to my ancestors, we knew it was a good choice. ... If all of these other Beairds who have been out there during the past 130 years were still around they would say 'That's the thing we ought to do.'"

These were not the only expressions of Board member generosity during the past year. In fact, since March of 2000, Board members have added to other endowed annual scholarship funds and helped the College make significant progress toward new scholarships and campus upgrades—including the renovation of Wagstaff Gymnasium—with pledges and contributions.

Among those recent contributions are two gifts totaling \$30,000 from the R.W. Fair Foundation. The gifts, presented to TJC by Trustee James Fair, are to assist with the renovation of Wagstaff Gym. They are the latest of many contributions from Mr. Fair and the Fair Foundation.

Within the past year, current Board members have contributed or pledged to the College land and assets valued at more than \$750,000. Over their terms of service, TJC's nine trustees have pledged or contributed nearly \$1.2 million to College endeavors.

"They have contributed generously over the years because the college made exemplary use of it," said Mr. Clark, who, along with his wife, Bee, created the A.D. and Bee Clark Presidential Scholarship in 1996. "They have given time and effort to expand and endow programs for the benefit of the students and the community, not just the college."

## A Part of History

TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe is pleased at the Board's willingness to assist the College financially, but he's not surprised.

"Since the early years of our college, we have been blessed by a Board that is truly interested in helping the institution advance. The development of the college is a personal issue as well as a governing issue," he said recently.

*"This campus  
was literally  
built by the  
generosity  
and will of  
our elected  
and appointed  
Board members."*

"When we began talking about endowing the performance scholarships and ensuring the unique qualities of the College for years to come, I think some of them just felt moved to be a part of that."

Dr. Crowe pointed out that Board members have provided financial assistance and guided private funding campaigns on numerous occasions over the past 75 years.

In fact, it was with the financial assistance of Board member Judge T.B. Ramey that the first tract of land at the present campus was purchased. Mr. Ramey also provided necessary funding to add Ramey Tower to the main classroom building (now Jenkins Hall). Board member Watson W. Wise provided the additional funding necessary to complete Wise Auditorium, named in honor of his father, and later contributed the plaza fountain and made a generous gift toward

the completion of the Watson W. Wise and Emma Wise Cultural Arts Center.

Contributions from current or former Board members also made other growth possible. Board member Dr. Jim Vaughn's contributions and those of his family helped make possible Lillye Mae Vaughn Hall, named in honor of Dr. Vaughn's mother; Vaughn Library and Learning Resources Center, named in honor of his father, Edgar Vaughn; and the Bonna Bess Vaughn Conservatory, named in honor of his loving wife. Board member George W. Pirtle's contributions made possible the sprawling George W. Pirtle Technology Center.

Trustees have also contributed greatly to other infrastructure projects in addition to providing scholarship funds for future students.

"This campus was literally built by the generosity and will of our elected and appointed Board members," Dr. Crowe said.

Board members are keenly aware of that history and are enthusiastic about continuing it.

"You can walk down the hallway by our meeting room and look at the pictures on the wall and look at those faces and you can almost construct not only the story of Tyler Junior College but the story of Tyler," said Mr. Beaird. "Traditionally the people who have been on this Board have been involved in community affairs. As a result, the city and the college have shared a future."

As the College prepares to light the candles on its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday cake, it appears to be a very bright future, indeed. ■

*Apache staff writer Nita Wilson contributed to this story.*



# DEVELOPMENT

## Beaird Family Among Honorees at Appreciation Dinner

The Tyler Junior College Foundation acknowledged a gift of land valued at \$425,000 by the Harold Beaird family and honored benefactors for significant annual and lifetime donations during the Donor Appreciation Banquet in April.

The 52-acre tract of land was recently granted to Tyler Junior College by the Beaird family. In March, the property was one of 115 farms to be recognized by the Texas Department of Agriculture through the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Family Land Heritage program. The program pays tribute to family-owned farms or ranches that have been in continuous operation for a minimum of 100 years.

TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe said the land will be used by TJC students studying horticulture.

"We're extremely grateful to the Beaird family not only for this gift, but the many contributions made to our students and to the leadership of our institution," Crowe said.

The evening's activities also included recognition of donors who have made contributions to TJC during the past year, and special recognition for donors who have contributed \$200,000 or more to the College.

Donors who were recognized for long-term commitment to the College were: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Beaird; Brookshire Grocery Company; the Raymond Bostock family; the Norma Carpenter Estate (Martin Sammons executor); the R.W. Fair Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Faulconer; the Brady P. Gentry Estate (Jack White, executor); Aleck and Hilda Genecov and Maurine Muntz; Mr. and Mrs. B.G. Hartley; the James and Estelle Hunt Estate (Claire Cobern executrix); the Meadows Foundation; Jimmy and Jo Ann Murphy; Joseph Z. and Louise Ornelas; the George Pirtle family; Bonnie Ross; Richard and Betty Summers/the B.G. Byers Estate; Dr. and



*Beairds Honored-Seated, left to right, Beverly, Bettye and Rosemary Beaird. Standing, Harold, Ben, and Dr. David and Lisa Beaird.*

Mrs. James M. Vaughn; the Watson W. Wise Foundation and Emma Wise; and Jack White.

"These individuals and organizations have given much to this college and to this community," Dr. Crowe said. "We're pleased to recognize their long-term support of Tyler Junior College."

During fiscal year 2000, which ended August 31, 2000, the TJC Foundation has received contributions in excess of \$3.4 million, bringing total assets to \$13.5 million.

Annually, Tyler Junior College, with the assistance of the TJC Foundation, awards more than \$1,300,000 in academic, special award and performance scholarships to TJC students.

## Murphy Family Makes Lead Gift for Gym Renovation



*Jimmy and Jo Ann Murphy accept recognition for their gifts to TJC during the Foundation Appreciation Banquet, April 17, in Tyler. The Murphys are pictured with Jack Flock (left) and Dr. Crowe.*

JoAnn and Jimmy Murphy recently made a lead gift of \$100,000 toward the renovation of Floyd S. Wagstaff Gymnasium.

The gift, in memory of Jimmy's late brother, Coach Jack V. Murphy, will be used to initiate a \$2 million campaign for improvements to the 40-year-old facility.

Jimmy, brother Jack and brother Donnie all played football for Coach Wagstaff. In addition to the brother connection, JoAnn and Jimmy's children, John, Jana (Wright) and Joni (Black) also attended TJC.

"We love TJC and cherish so many fond memories over the years, not the least of which was my paper route carrying *The Tyler Morning Telegraph* down Fifth Street when TJC was in its infancy," Jimmy Murphy said.

Jimmy is CEO of The Murphy Company, Inc. of Houston, a 40-year-old firm specializing in estate planning, wealth creation and wealth preservation. He is a founder and organizer of TJC's Nell and Floyd Wagstaff Endowed Scholarship Fund and continues to serve on the board of that organization. 🏠



## Royce Davis Legacy Scholarship Established for Band Students

Charles and Barbara Davis of Bullard recently established the Royce E. Davis Memorial Legacy Scholarship with a \$25,000 gift to the TJC Foundation.



Royce E. Davis

The endowed scholarship is in honor of Charles's father, who was a member of the first class of students to attend Tyler Junior College in 1926. The elder Davis went on to complete a bachelor's degree at Texas Tech University. He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 39 years.

Like his father, Charles attended TJC and graduated with an associate degree in 1962 before completing his bachelor's degree at Stephen

F. Austin State University.

This endowment will provide a scholarship for a TJC band student from Bullard. It will be presented for the first time in the 2001–2002 school year, said David Starnes, TJC director of development.

Brandon Eubanks, a senior at Bullard High School, was selected as the first recipient of the scholarship by Ronnie Todd, TJC director of bands. He was presented the scholarship during Bullard High School's senior awards assembly in May.

"We are grateful to the Davis family for this gift to honor and remember the pioneers of Tyler Junior College," Starnes said. "It is fitting that this scholarship be awarded during the year we celebrate the College's 75 years of changing lives."



Long-time TJC supporter Emma Wise poses with TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe and TJC Foundation Chair Jack Flock during the annual TJC Foundation Appreciation Banquet, April 17, at Tyler's Willow Brook Country Club. Ms. Wise and the Watson W. Wise Foundation were among donors recognized for gifts to TJC totalling \$200,000 or more.

## TJC Instructor Creates Endowment to Recognize TJC Staff, Honor Parents

The good work of TJC staff members is the focus of an endowment created recently by TJC faculty member Sarah Harrison.

Harrison has established the W. Oscar and Marguerite Herrin Award for Excellence through a generous gift of \$32,000 to the TJC Foundation. With the endowment, Harrison honors her parents while paying tribute to the excellence of TJC classified staff. The endowment will recognize three individuals each year. Names of recipients will be announced during TJC's fall convocation each year. Awards are a plaque and \$500 each.



Both William

Oscar and Marguerite Dudley Herrin were born into the Rusk County farming community roughly two decades before the East Texas oil boom. As the children of farmers and ranchers, both had numerous siblings and learned early the value of the teamwork required to keep their respective family farms up and running.

Harrison said, "Every job was important and everyone had a job."

Although the two graduated from rival high schools—Oscar from Henderson in 1931 and Marguerite from Kilgore in 1932—they were married on November 25, 1939, after a courtship of nearly four years.

In 1944, shortly after the birth of their first child James Wesley, Oscar and Marguerite started a timber business, the W.O. Herrin Lumber Company, in addition to running the family farm that Oscar had inherited from his parents, James Ephraim and Maude Watson Herrin.

The Herrins always appreciated their employees, many of whom were still working with them at the time of Oscar's sudden death on January 5, 1970. Although Marguerite sold the timber business shortly thereafter and started working in a Kilgore art-framing shop, she managed to maintain the farm with the help of two faithful employees until her retirement in 1978. She died on April 21, 1991.

"It is because of my parents' respect for hard work in whatever capacity that I chose to honor their memory by endowing a fund designed exclusively to reward classified staff members for their dedicated service to TJC," Harrison said.

Harrison has been on the TJC faculty since 1976, teaching English and journalism.



## Real Estate Gifts can be Mutually Beneficial

The charitable gift of real estate often proves to have special benefits for both the donor and the recipient. If you own a home or other property you no longer wish to occupy or manage and you would like to make a charitable gift, you may find the gift of that real estate to be a very efficient way to meet both goals.

### When property has grown in value

If you sell real estate you have owned for a number of years, it is likely that you will be faced with a sizable capital gains tax, especially if the property is not your residence.

Through an outright gift of such a property, a double tax savings is possible. First, in most cases you will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the property—a savings of as much as 40% or more of the property's value. In addition, you will not be liable for capital gains tax on the transfer.

If you give property that has not been producing an income (and which may be incurring annual expenses), your gift does not adversely affect your current income.

**Example:** John Hammers invested \$10,000 in a parcel of real estate 15 years ago. It has recently been appraised at \$50,000. He decides to use this land to make a charitable gift. He is entitled to a deduction of \$50,000 on his income tax return for the year of the gift, which in his 36% tax bracket saves him \$18,000 in taxes (more than he originally paid for the property). And because he made a gift, he will not owe the capital gains tax which would be due if he sold the property. He also enjoys making a \$50,000 gift in a manner that has no effect on his current income.

### When property has decreased in value

A different strategy might be best if you own property that has decreased in value. In such a case, a gift of the property outright will entitle you to a deduction for only the fair market value of the property—less than what you paid for it.

It would be better to sell the property and make a gift of the cash proceeds. In this way, you establish a capital loss that you may be able to deduct from your taxes, as well as a charitable deduction for the amount of the cash gift. The net result can be to take deductions that are actually worth more than the current value of the property.

### Making a gift but retaining use of the property

If you would like to make a gift of your principal residence or perhaps a vacation home, you may do so in a way that allows you and your spouse or another survivor the right to enjoy the property for life.

A tax deduction is allowed for the value of the eventual charitable gift in the year the gift is arranged. This type of

gift is generally most attractive to people 65 or older, and the deduction is greater during times of lower interest rates.

**Example:** Mary Rogers, 78, is a widow with three children who live in other areas of the country and are doing quite well financially. She is planning to leave the bulk of her estate to her children and is also considering making a charitable gift as part of her estate plans. She decides to make a gift of her home now.

Because she has made an eventual gift of her home, she is entitled to a tax deduction for almost two-thirds of its value. If the home were worth \$200,000, for example, she would be allowed a tax deduction of about \$120,000 in the year she made the gift, while retaining the right to enjoy the property for life. If she later decided to make a gift of her remaining rights in the home, she would receive additional tax benefits at that time. In any event, the value of her home will also be removed from her estate for tax purposes.

### Providing for income

Charitable gifts of real estate may also be made in ways that result in income to you for life or another period of time you choose. Several options are available. You may select fixed income, variable income, or income that is temporarily or permanently tied to the earnings of the assets used to make the gift, as you decide.

Regardless of the type of gift chosen, it is possible to avoid capital gains tax on the increase in value of the property at the time the gift is made, as well as enjoy a current income tax deduction for the value of the gift (as determined by government tables) and remove the assets used to fund the gift from your taxable estate.

### Choosing the right property

When deciding to make a charitable gift in the form of real estate, it is very important to choose property that meets a number of criteria.

1. The property should be readily salable, especially if you anticipate making the gift in the form of a life income arrangement. It should not be necessary for the charitable recipient to hold donated property for sale for an inordinate period of time.
2. The property's appraised value must equal the amount of the anticipated gift. Federal regulations require qualified appraisals of donated property for which a deduction of more than \$5,000 is claimed, in most cases.
3. If a property is mortgaged, tax and other benefits may still be obtained, but special attention should be paid to the manner in which the property is given.

As you can see, your gift of real estate can be of great benefit to both you and the charitable recipient you choose.

*For assistance in establishing a charitable gift to TJC, contact David Starnes, director of development, at 903/510-2520, or Dr. Kim Russell, executive director of the TJC Foundation, at 903/510-2382.*



# THE ARTS

## Forensic Students Win Region, Place High at Nationals

The TJC forensic team recently finished its best years ever, taking the Texas and regional tournaments and competing well at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament, April 9-14, in Jacksonville, Florida. At nationals, four TJC students competed against 455 other students from 72 colleges and universities from across the nation.

All four TJC competitors, Dan Miller, Tyler; LaTisha Waters, Grand Prairie; Phedra Johnson, Bullard; and Frank Patel, Marshall, received excellent or superior ratings in multiple events, and TJC was rated ninth overall in the nation.

Miller won a gold medal in Impromptu Speaking. "This is a remarkable achievement considering that he is a full-time night student," said M'Liss Hindman, TJC coach and speech and theatre instructor.

Waters won a silver medal for Program Oral Interpretation, and Johnson won the bronze in Program Oral Interpretation "TJC is in 2nd place for the Sylvia Mariner Overall Sweepstakes award for cumulative sweepstakes points for next year.



Forensic Team members (L-R) Dan Miller, Latisha Waters, Amy Phillips and Frank Patel at Tyler's Pounds Field Airport prior to departing for the National Tournament. Not pictured is Phedra Johnson, who also competed in Florida.

This is the highest we've ever been rated," Ms. Hindman said. "We are thrilled that the team has been so successful this year, and they are excited about their plans to accomplish more during future competitions.

Amy Phillips, Tyler, who won five awards during regional competition, including first place in regional Parliamentary Debate, was forced to withdraw from the national contest due to a knee injury.

At the Phi Rho Pi Region VI Forensic Tournament, representing community colleges from Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, the TJC team was awarded the Lone Star Sweepstakes for most points accumulated. The team also captured first place in Debate Sweepstakes.

Phillips and Patel placed first in Parliamentary Debate. She captured first place top speaker, and he won second place top speaker. He also placed fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking.

The squad captured the Texas tournament in Houston in March.



The TJC Alumni Association held a reception at the MI Restaurant in New York City in April for all our former students now living in that area. Pictured above are David Starnes, Ken Thompson, Marie Biggs, Mark Rogers, Emilie Trube, David Wren, Carol Beggs, Benard Cummings, Dr. David Crawford, Wendy Strauss, Shirley Mallory, Terry Gibson, Ben Roberts, Amy Herring, Nancy Lunceford, TJC President Dr. Bill Crowe, Paul Duede, "Rusty" Fletcher, Jason Calhoun, Chris Irwin, Charles Vilks, Lisa Jones and Betty Briggs.



During the New York trip, members of the TJC group saw TJC alumna Donna Bullock in her Broadway performance of "A Class Act." Above, TJC Alumni Relations Director Betty Briggs (left) is pictured with Bullock and alumnus David Wren at Sardi's Restaurant prior to the show. Bullock also met with TJC alumni backstage, after the show.



# SPORTS

## College to Induct Three Members into TJC Sports Circle of Honor

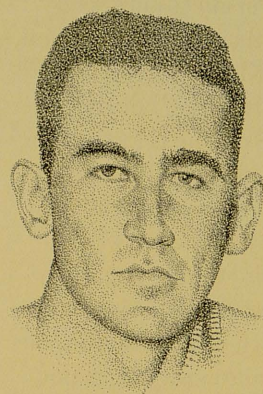
Two of Coach Floyd Wagstaff's "Top 10" basketball players and the man credited with bringing Tyler Junior College tennis and its "Tennis Tech" program to national prominence will be inducted into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor in June, the College has announced.

The College will recognize its sixth group of inductees into the Circle of Honor during a banquet on Saturday, June 9, on the TJC campus.

The evening will begin with a private reception for inductees and their guests in Rogers Student Center at 6:30 p.m. The awards banquet will take place beginning at 7 p.m. in the Apache Rooms of the Rogers Student Center.

The 2001 inductees are:

- **Johnny Johnston**, basketball, 1956-58;
- **Fred Kniffen**, tennis coach, 1973-84; and
- **Jesse Marshall**, basketball, 1967-69.



**Johnny Johnston** was a starting center for the Apaches who the late Coach Floyd Wagstaff referred to as "a good jump shooter with a real good hook shot." He was a member of the 1956-67 team that went to the NJCAA national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Johnston was also the leading scorer and rebounder for the 1957-58 team. He was a Third Team All-America selection and

was a First Team All-Texas JuCo choice.



**Fred Kniffen** began coaching tennis at TJC in 1973. During his tenure at TJC, he coached 31 NJCAA All-Americans. His men's teams captured national championships in 1980 and 1984 and his ladies' teams won national championships in 1983 and 1984. He is also credited with taking the nation's first college program offering a degree in tennis teaching to national prominence. Kniffen

led the College's recreation leadership-tennis teaching program from 1975-84.

**Jesse Marshall** was the first African-American athlete recruited to TJC by coaching legend Floyd Wagstaff. Wagstaff described him as a "big, strong youngster who could dominate the boards."

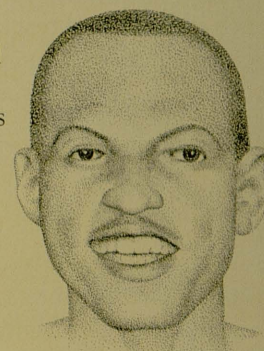
Half of TJC's "Dynamic Duo"—the other half being center Jim Brooks—Marshall averaged 16.7 points a game his freshman season and 16.2 his sophomore year, while providing significant rebounding muscle. At 6-6 and 245 pounds, he was one of Coach Wag's biggest and most dominating recruits, hailing from Princeton, Louisiana.

Marshall was selected as the North Zone Region 14 Most Valuable Player of the regional tournament in 1968 and he was a Second Team All Texas Eastern Conference choice that year.

Many Circle of Honor members, inductees and friends will participate in a Sports Circle of Honor Golf Tournament at Oak Hurst Golf Club Saturday morning, June 9. Proceeds will go to benefit TJC athletics.

To make reservations for the golf tournament or the induction banquet, contact Karen Smith at 903/510-2382.

Previous inductees into the Circle of Honor are: Floyd Wagstaff, football and basketball coach and athletic director; James "Babe" Hallmark, football and football coach; Charlie McGinty, football and football coach; Brady P. Gentry, special contributor; Harry Bostic, Herbert Richardson, O'Neal Weaver, James "Poo" Welch, Bonnie Buchanan Gray, Russell Boone, Janice Mulford, V.C. "Buck" Overall, Jose Palafox, Foster Bullock, Van Samford and Milton Williams, basketball; and Bill "Tiger" Johnson, David Lunceford, Jimmy Murphy, Mack Pogue, Jimmy Dickey, Leon Fuller, Bill Herchman, John Linney, Dan Page, Lawrence Strickland, Dwain Bean, Kenneth Bahnsen, Kenneth Coffey, Jack Murphy, Raymond McGallion; Gene Shannon, Charles Quilter and Royce Townsend, football.



TJC Head Football Coach Dale Carr, right, is presented a resolution from the TJC Board of Trustees recognizing the Apaches' 2000 football accomplishments. Pictured with Carr are TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe and Board President Patrick R. Thomas, M.D. The Apaches won the Southwest Junior College Football Conference championship in December.



## Fulbright Sultan Dr. 'K' Receives \$51,000 Award for Turkish Trip

"Fulbright Sultan" is a title Fulbright participants bestowed on Dr. Manoucher Khosrowshahi, a Tyler Junior College government professor who has received a Fulbright director's award for the third consecutive year.

Under the Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad administered by the U.S. Department of Education, the College will sponsor a five-week faculty professional development seminar in Turkey June 1–July 4. Fifteen educators, five from each of the following: university, community college and public school teachers and administrators, will be selected to participate in this project.

The seminar is intended to enhance professional competence of individual teachers, to enrich the curriculum in the social sciences and humanities and to develop well-rounded programs in Turkish studies, Middle East studies and/or global education.

The five-week program will include an intensive academic component at Middle East Technical University, in Ankara. There will also be organized field visits and study tours in a number of historic sites in several cities, as well as visits to cultural centers, museums, historic monuments, theaters, schools, hospitals, factories and research centers.

The federal grant of \$51,000 meets most of the expenses including airfare, travel within Turkey, hotel rooms and two meals a day, as well as expenses connected with officially scheduled conferences and cultural activities. Applicants discuss the relevance and benefit of the seminar in Turkey to their academic work and plans to utilize their experiences in multi-cultural or global education. The participant registration fee is \$950.

This will be the sixth trip to Turkey for Dr. Khosrowshahi who went for the first time in 1990. "I liked the country so much that I wanted to take some Americans to experience what I had enjoyed," he said. "It took me about six years to write the proposal and make the connections to pave the road for the travel." Since then, he has taken 105 people to the Texas-size country as part of Fulbright seminars and travel study classes.

The summer program will focus mostly on the Black Sea region. "I try to change the itinerary every time so I can see new places too," he said.

Since he has received applications from people living on the east coast, west coast, in the north, south and central United States, the group also visits sites that appeal to people with varied backgrounds and interests.

"Some people are interested in Biblical studies, so last year we visited Mary's home and sites of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations," he said. "Some people are

interested in Greek and Roman civilization, and we offer something for everybody. There is so much to learn."

Also, he looks for a ripple effect. "In addition to sharing their knowledge with their students, teachers come back and share their experiences with faculty, teachers and community members," he said.

"It is unusual for a two-year institution to get one Fulbright grant, and it is unusual for any institution to get two consecutive Fulbright grants. It is very rare for an instructor at a two-year institution to get three consecutive Fulbright grants," Dr. Robert Peters, acting dean of university studies, said.

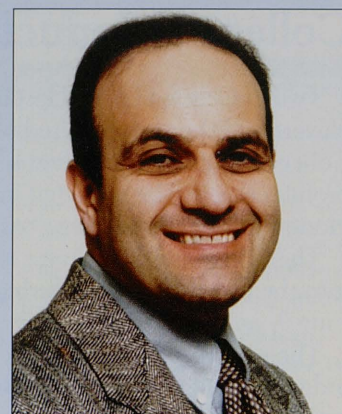
"My first Fulbright project was as a recipient to Thailand, and I have also gone to Mexico," Dr. Khosrowshahi said. "Regulations limit participant awards to three, but the number as director is not limited." He said he is looking forward to the summer seminar and more trips in the future. "Travel is my passion," he said. "I would love to go all over the world. I enjoy every place. I see beauties everywhere."

In March Dr. "K" conducted his third Spring Break travel/study class to the land where the east and west meet. One of his former government students, Curtis Denton, of Tyler, took the trip for the second time to visit places not included in the itinerary last year. "I just really enjoyed Turkey—the people—the historical sites," he said. "I loved it. It's really well planned. It's fun. It's just great."

With a master's degree from the National University of Tehran, Dr. Khosrowshahi came to the U.S. to get his doctorate in political science at the University of North Texas and to teach. Although he had a scholarship to return to Iran to teach, he decided to remain in the United States, and he became a U.S. citizen in 1996. "This country provides the opportunity and academic freedom that I can not get anywhere else," he said. "It was a special feeling to become a citizen and say that I am an American, and I am proud of that."

Of all his accomplishments, Dr. Khosrowshahi is also especially proud to be a teacher. "I think it is the best profession in the world. The impact on students is immeasurable. I wouldn't change to anything else," he said. Although he enjoys teaching Internet classes, he believes there is no substitute for a college classroom with face to face interaction. "I wouldn't leave the classroom," he said.

However, he will gladly temporarily relocate his classroom to exotic locations around the world.





## PTK Members Gather, Relive Memories on 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Shelly Roark

Scholarship. Leadership. Service. Fellowship.

Members of Alpha Omicron, the TJC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, have it all.

As one of the oldest Phi Theta Kappa chapters in the nation, the local group sets the pace for other honor organizations with regional and national recognition.

During fall homecoming activities, current and former members of the chapter were reunited to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. Many of them discussed what it means to be in Phi Theta Kappa.

Joni Barrow, an officer in the chapter for 1999–2000, said she made close friendships in the group while at TJC. “Most people are still in touch from the organization,” she said.

But as the reunion began, one Phi Theta Kappa alumnus searched old photos for peers she lost touch with over the years. After finding the photograph of her group, Louise Hogenson of Tyler shared what it was like to be a member of the organization and a TJC student in 1941–42.

“Oh, I really did enjoy it,” she recalled. “I was on the school newspaper staff and knew just about everybody in town.”

Kathy (Weiss) Stephens was a member of Phi Theta Kappa from 1973–75 and, like many PTK students, found many opportunities to excel and perform.

“I left home at 8 a.m. and stayed at the school until 10 p.m.,” she said. Besides her involvement with Phi Theta Kappa, Stephens said she participated in Harmony and Understanding, theater, the Wesley Foundation and Student Council. “I loved it!”

Stephens, who now lives in Forney and teaches voice, said the college had something for everyone.

Barrow, a 2000 TJC graduate, said she enjoyed the community service aspect of PTK. “We did so much — from Habitat (for Humanity) and (PATH) food and coat drives to bowling for kids. You name it, we did it.”

Said TJC English instructor and long-time PTK advisor Judy Turman, “We pride ourselves in being *the* service organization on campus. We do it all.”

Turman said the current service project is “America’s Promise,” a non-profit organization designed by Gen. Colin Powell, now the nation’s Secretary of State. The non-profit organization works to bring together individuals, schools, organizations, corporations and communities to ensure young people have positive adult relationships, educational opportunities, service opportunities and safe activities.

As part of the program, students worked with underprivileged and at-risk children at local elementary schools to promote reading excitement during the Fall semester. “We played games to stimulate interest in reading and gave away thousands of books to kids,” Turman said.

Other projects include, Adopt-A-Nursing Home program, PATH’s Coats for Kids, the Salvation Army Angel Tree, the PATH canned food drive, work with Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Phone-A-Friend and peer tutors.

“We have also worked with a number of organizations that asked us to participate in walks, such as for Alzheimer’s and diabetes,” Ms. Turman said. “And we have ushered on campus for various organizations.”

Turman said the local chapter, chartered in November 1930, strives to achieve the four hallmarks of the national organization—scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship.

The group began competing for regional and international awards in 1985 and its members have not looked back.

“We have been in the top 20 chapters in the nation for three of the last five years. We have been No. 1 chapter in state of Texas and in the top 10 in the state for last 10 years,” Turman said. “We are the only college in nation to have two advisers to win the Mosal award, an international award given every year to only four or five advisers maximum.”

The current Texas regional president of Phi Theta Kappa is Matt Cates, a member of Alpha Omicron and son of Cathryn Cates, TJC biology instructor and another of the TJC PTK advisors. The third of TJC’s trio of PTK advisors is Gigi Beaton, instructor of computer science.

Turman serves as chairman of the regional advisory board this year for Phi Theta Kappa.

“We have the biggest membership of any other chapter in the state. And we are the only chapter in the nation ever to win two Freeman Science awards back to back,” Ms. Turman said. “We were ranked high internationally for leadership and scholarship last year with outstanding ratings.”

Nationally, Phi Theta Kappa was established in 1918 by the presidents of the Missouri junior colleges for women to recognize and encourage scholarship among associate degree students, according to information from the group’s Website.

For the first six years, Phi Theta Kappa confined its activity to women’s junior colleges, but in 1924, expanded to cover all junior colleges. By 1928, Phi Theta Kappa had grown to 14 chapters in six states.

In 1929, the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges recognized the organization as the official honor fraternity for two-year colleges. Today, it is the largest honor society in American higher education, with more than 1.3 million members and 1,100 chapters located in 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada, Germany and Japan.

For membership, students must complete a minimum of 12 hours toward an associate degree and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



## Phi Theta Kappa Extends Award to TJC's Chapter, President Crowe

Alpha Omicron, the TJC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, once again received international recognition at the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention.

The chapter was one of 10 chapters in the nation to receive a Scholarship Hallmark, was recognized as a Five-Star Program and was hailed for meeting its 2000 Journey Challenge with a 20 percent increase in membership during the past two years.

Also at the convention, held in Denver, Colorado, March 29–31, individual honors were presented, with TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe receiving a Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

Another distinguished individual honor was awarded to Alpha Omicron President Elizabeth Shoemaker of San Saba, Texas. Shoemaker was presented a Guistwhite Scholarship, one of only 10 handed down this year. The Guistwhite is a



Elizabeth Shoemaker, Matt Cates

\$5,000 scholarship presented to students selected by an independent panel of judges. More than 800 students applied for the scholarships this year. It was the third time a TJC student had won a Guistwhite award.

The scholarship award will be disbursed over a two-year-period to fund Shoemaker's baccalaureate studies. She plans to attend The University of Texas at Tyler and to obtain a master's degree from Texas Christian University or The University of Texas at Dallas. Her goal is to become a college math instructor.

Regional President Matt Cates, Tyler, was selected one of 10 Outstanding Regional Officers, and Alpha Omicron chapter advisor Cathryn Cates, TJC biology instructor, received the Paragon Award for Advisors.

The chapter also claimed an Eichling Award of Excellence for its yearbook submission. ■

## Testing Center Earns "A" on Audit

The College's Testing Center recently received a 100 percent score on an audit conducted by Prometric of Thompson Learning (formerly Sylvan Technology Centers).

The Quality Assurance Review was an extensive, day-long audit performed by Tracy Reynolds, manager of institutional channel. Reynolds performs audits at testing centers throughout the U.S. In her exit report, Reynolds described the TJC center as "neat and professional" and its staff as "very knowledgeable and courteous."

Kenneth Luke, counselor/director of testing, said he understands the 100 percent report is very unusual for such evaluations.

"We are thrilled with the results of this extensive evaluation. It is a tribute to our staff. I am extremely proud of the work they do. This is truly an accomplishment," he said.

Tyler Junior College was only the second community college in the nation to establish a Sylvan Technology Center (now Prometric by Thompson Learning) and it is the only college-based testing center to offer both Prometric and Prometric by Thompson Learning examinations.

Both Prometric and Prometric by Thompson Learning provide professional and licensure examinations in controlled environments at authorized member institutions. By being associated with both firms, TJC is able to offer a wide range of professional exams.

In addition to examination services for professionals, the Center provides testing for credit courses taught on the TJC campus and offers such exams as the Quick-TASP for students enrolled in or applying for college admission. ■

## Three More Attain Interpreter Status

The College's Support Services office now offers seven state-certified Level I interpreters to assist TJC's deaf community. There are a total of nine paid interpreters used by the office, said Cindy Lowery, tutor coordinator and deaf student interpreter coordinator.

To become Level I certified, interpreters must pass a written exam that includes questions relating to the professional code of ethics that certified interpreters must abide by, and perform well in interpreting and voicing as judged by a team of evaluators. Interpreters who recently received notification of their Level I status are Micah Brock, Tina Dillman and Dijana Armstrong. ■



**THEY'LL BE MISSED** – Instructor/Director of Chemistry James Wicks, left, offers best wishes to Judy Turman, instructor of English and director of the Scholars' Academy, during her retirement party recently. Both Wicks and Turman have announced their retirements. Turman taught for 26 years and also served as Phi Theta Kappa advisor. She was one of the first in the state to deliver instruction via television. Wicks, who has been with TJC since 1963, will officially retire at the end of the summer.



## Names of TJC Schools Changed

In order to serve and recruit students more effectively, the College has restructured and renamed its schools of study and moved some academic programs.

"This change is being implemented so that we may do a better job of assisting students in making career path choices and so that our faculty and staff may be more proactive in helping students select academic majors and classes," said TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe.

Along with the new School titles, the academic deans supervising the three credit Schools assume new titles.

The School of Business and Technology will now be known as the School of Applied Studies; the School of Health and Natural Sciences as the School of Allied Health and Nursing; and the School of Liberal and Fine Arts as the School of University Studies.

The School of University Studies becomes the umbrella for academic majors which traditionally prepare students for transfer to an upper-level institution.

The School of Allied Health and Nursing will be comprised of programs which prepare students for entry into allied health or nursing careers.

The School of Applied Studies will be comprised of programs which prepare students for entry into careers in computer technologies, engineering technologies, management or public service.

Students completing work in some programs of the School of Applied Studies or the School of Allied Health and Nursing may also successfully continue their study in that field at the university level.

## Faculty/Staff Briefs

Four faculty members were presented with Endowed Teaching Chair awards during opening activities for the Spring 2001 semester.

**Cathryn Cates**, biology instructor, received the Mable Williams Endowed Chair. **Byron Howell**, chemistry instructor, was awarded the Thomas H. Shelby Jr. Endowed Chair. **Dr. Lynn Gray**, biology instructor, was presented the Dorothy Fay and Jack White Endowed Chair. **Paul Gasparro**, computer science instructor, was presented the George W. Pirtle and El Freda Taylor Pirtle Endowed Chair.

**M'liss Hindman**, speech/theatre instructor, was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Texas Speech Communication Association during its recent convention in Houston.

**Amie Bedgood**, associate degree nursing instructor, received a grant for \$6,555 for the Nurse Practitioner program offered by The University of Texas at Tyler and Texas Tech University.

**Steve Morrow**, media distribution technician, was recently inducted into the 2000/2001 International *Who's Who of Business Professionals*.

Faculty Senate officers for 2001–2002 are **Amy Glenn**, president; **Phyllis Brunner**, president-elect; and **Marysue Whitus**, secretary.

Glenn, government/economics instructor and Liberal Arts electronic instruction coordinator is in the 2001 International *Who's Who of Professional and Business Women's Hall of Fame* composed of individuals whose biographies are in an edition of the series. She served as a panelist for a League of Women Voters candidate forum with candidates in Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, and Smith counties. She was also the keynote Veteran's Day speaker for the Mineola Independent School District and was a guest November 19 on KLTU- Channel 7's 'Primary Focus.'

**Melinda Coker**, director of Career Services, received a National Association of Colleges and Employers Award of Excellence for the "Hot Jobs Viewbook," produced with assistance of the East Texas Tech-Prep Consortium. She presented a session on the Career Development Passport project during the "Linking the Millennia" 2001 Tech-Prep conference in Austin, March 19–21.

**Fred Peters**, marketing and public information director, is on the Tyler-Smith County United Way executive board and is the new chairman of the 2001 campaign marketing committee on which he has served for five of the past six years. He joins TJC President **Dr. William R. Crowe** and **Drs. Aubrey Sharpe** and **Otis Webster** on the United Way Board of Directors.

**Dr. Sharpe**, dean of continuing studies, returned to the Northeast Chamber of Commerce Leadership Retreat in Dallas for the 8th consecutive year as a guest speaker. His topic was mentoring. He also presented "10 Tips for Time Management" to the Downtown Rotary Club and the Texas College Student Affairs Staff. He spoke to the Sears Management Staff at RTDC on "You Can Be All You Want To Be."

**Randy Melton**, campus safety director/ criminal justice instructor, received an East Texas Crisis Center Hope Award for sexual assault education during freshman orientation.

Melton, Officers **James Weaver**, **Mike Moseley**, **John Thornhill**, and **Ron Scott** completed training on Advanced Interactive Systems Use of Force Training at RTDC. The officers also participated in a National Institute of Justice study for Eastern Kentucky and Sam Houston State universities on the use of firearms training simulators.

**Weaver** and **Debbie Owen**, campus safety staff technician, received certificates for completing an FBI training program on a National Incident-Based Reporting System held at the Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters in Austin.



**Jane Hill**, emergency medical services professions instructor and **Brent Smith**, part-time EMSP instructor, have been appointed to the Texas EMS Rural Continuing Education Taskforce. Hill participated in a workshop on "Distance Education and Learning" at the 2000 EMS Conference in Austin sponsored by the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Health Foundation.

**Brian Turman**, director of purchasing and central services, is co-chair of the Small Schools Committee of the National Association of Educational Buyers and will serve on the Texas Community College Cooperative Purchasing Network steering committee.

**Troy Cenac**, pharmacy technology instructor/director, is now an official ACPE instructor of IV Admixtures after a "Train the Trainer" course on "Aseptic Techniques for Pharmacy Technicians" at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. TJC pharmacy students can now become ACPE-certified for preparing IV Admixtures.

**Kay Dawson**, English instructor, attended a Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society conference in Salt Lake City and is now certified to teach the Scholars Academy Leadership Development Studies course.

**Larry Mendez**, senior network analyst, and **Carl Shotts**, network administrator, passed their Netware 4/Netware 5 Update certification exam to maintain certified engineer status.

During TJC's 3rd annual Texas Secondary Theatre Teacher Workshop, speech and theatre instructors **Vic Siller**, **Jacque Shackelford**, **Clarence Strickland**, **Becky Faulds**, and **David Crawford** led workshops with teachers from as far away as Dallas.

**Joan Jones**, dean, applied studies, was a site team evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, in an accreditation visit to Nash Community College.

**Karen Rice**, physics instructor, attended a Texas Sections of the American Association of Physics, Teachers and American Physical Society, and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students meeting at Sam Houston State University. She will collaborate on new projects as part of the Two Year College Quantum Optics Advanced Technological Education Program with 21 community college physics educators from 12 states. The meeting was part of a program sponsored by Texas A&M University, Lee College, the National Science Foundation and Tyler Junior College.

**Ferna Mills**, continuing education coordinator, has published her fourth article which was accepted by the e-zine "Momwriters.com." Her article, "Mythology vs. Genealogy," is online at [www.DearMyrtle.com](http://www.DearMyrtle.com) and will be reprinted in the June magazine of The Kansas City Genealogical Society. Her poems and essays on grief recovery are at [www.rainbowfaith.com](http://www.rainbowfaith.com).

**Dr. Jeffery Owens**, history instructor, presented a paper "Selling Cars in the Thirties: The Marketing of Automobiles in the Heart of the East Texas Oil Patch" to the Gulf South History and Humanities Conference in Pensacola, Florida. His book review of *Builders: A business biography of Herman and George R. Brown* appeared in the Gulf South Historical Review.

**Jan Adams**, Support Services special populations coordinator, delivered a presentation to the Christian Women's Job Corps at Green Acres Baptist Church on how to get started for TJC's Spring 2001 semester.

**Dr. William E. "Gene" Gandy**, emergency medical services professions director/ instructor spoke to the Tyler Mid-Town Kiwanis Club on "What To Do Until The Ambulance Arrives."

**Carol Gilliland**, health and natural sciences counselor, was nominated by

**Bobbie Jo Freeman** ('99) for recognition as a person of "influence, encouragement and attitude" influencing the selection of medicine as a profession. Freeman, a student at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, studied pre-med at Baylor University.

**Elaine Graybill**, French/Spanish instructor, attended the North Texas Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French meeting in Fort Worth and a preview/lecture on *Modern Masters of Mexico* at the Dallas Museum of Art.

**Linda Zeigler**, director of journalism and student publications, was reunited with a former, 1971, Yoakum high school student, Victor Moreno, after her daughter, Heidi, learned an Austin co-worker lived near Moreno's parents. Dallas Morning News columnist James Ragland chose the reunion with Moreno, who was recovering from a serious accident, "most-compelling" and spoke to TJC students.



*State representative Leo Berman (R Tyler) and Dr. Lou Ann Kuck were married on Saturday, March 3, in the Lt. Governor's Reception Room of the Texas State Capitol in Austin.*

*Leo Berman was elected to the District 6 office in 1998 and re-elected in 2000. The bride is TJC's dean of allied health and nursing and has been with TJC since 1981.*



# Join Us As We Celebrate 75 Years of Changing Lives!

**Las Mascaras 75th Anniversary Celebration**—June 1 & 2

See page 17 for further details

**Sixth Annual Sports Circle of Honor Induction Ceremony**—

June 9, 7 p.m.. See page 31 for details.

**Founder's Day**—Monday, September 17, 2001

Events include a special address by former Education Secretary William Bennett, the dedication of an historical marker at Jenkins Hall and a community birthday celebration.

**Homecoming Week**—October 22-27, 2001

Monday & Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Student Center—Homecoming Dinner Theatre

Friday, 7 p.m., Wise Auditorium—Campus Capers

Friday, immediately following Campus Capers, Wise Cultural Arts Plaza—Homecoming Pep Rally

Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Homecoming Reunions

Saturday, 11:30 a.m., Rogers Student Center—Alumni Awards Luncheon

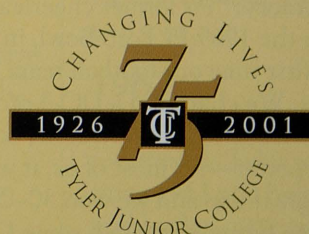
Saturday, TBA, Rose Stadium—TJC Apaches vs. Trinity Valley Community College Cardinals

**The 75th Anniversary Extravaganza: A Celebration of TJC's Performing Arts Excellence**—Friday, April 26, 2002, Harvey Convention Center

**Commencement 2002: Honoring the Graduates of Past & Present**—Saturday, May 11, 2002

Other events and activities are being planned.

Call the TJC Alumni Office  
for more details at 903/510-2371.





# ALUMNI

## Meet Your 2001 Officers



**PRESIDENT**—Andres “Andy” G. Navarro, Class of ‘82. Valedictorian of his high school class, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1984 and his law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1987. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 15 years and have two daughters and a

son. General Counsel for Trinity Mother Frances Health System, Andy continues to show his love and appreciation for TJC through his years of service to the College.

**Favorite TJC Memory:** “My favorite 80’s memories include serving as the TJC mascot and Mrs. Linda Cross’ history classes. I can still remember watching the gravity-defying dunks that TJC’s point guard, Prince Bridges, performing at Wagstaff Gym.”

**Goal:** “As President of the Alumni Association, I would like to increase not only Association membership but members’ life-long involvement with and support of TJC as well. We look forward to working closely with the Foundation Association to help make Tyler Junior College’s 75th Anniversary celebration a rousing success. This year one of the Alumni Association Board of Directors’ main goals is to establish a \$25,000 Legacy Scholarship.”



**PRESIDENT-ELECT**—Emma Lou (Wyatt) Prater, Class of ‘47. She received her bachelor’s from Texas A&M Commerce in 1971 and her masters from there in 1982. Emma Lou is not only a graduate of TJC but also retired as Student Activities Director in 1989, after 25 years of service to the College. She continues to play a very

active roll at TJC and is still one of the Apaches’ No. 1 fans. Emma Lou and her husband Kenneth have been married for 53 years and have two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grand child.

**Favorite TJC Memory:** “As former cheerleader sponsor, I remember going to the 1969 El Toro Bowl, in Yuma, Arizona. It was the first time our football team had been to a bowl game in years. We chartered a DC-3 prop airplane for the parents, cheerleaders, administrators, coaches’ wives, and even a reporter—for most of us, it was our first time to fly. It was a great trip and we won 30–0! I have so many memories, some funny, some sad, some I shouldn’t tell. I always enjoyed doing things for and with our students.”

**Goal:** “I would like to see all former members of TJC special interest groups: Band, Belles, Cheerleaders, Athletes, etc. support the alumni association through membership and involvement.”



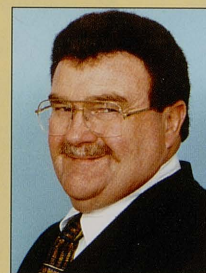
**SECRETARY**—Shirley (McCorkle) Mallory, Class of ‘52. As a former Apache Belle, Shirley is active in both Belle Gold and the Association. She and her husband, Leroy, have been married 48 years and have one daughter and one grandson. She retired from Bankers Life & Casualty Insurance Company in 1996 and when she is not

traveling, you can find her working in the yard or helping with TJC events.

**Favorite TJC Memory:** “In December 1951 the Belles, along with the band traveled by bus to Pasadena, California to perform during halftime at the Rose Bowl. We each had to raise \$50 and we were given \$3.50 a day for meals. It was a wonderful trip but we lost the game against Compton College 28 to 26!”

**Goal:** I have many goals for TJC. As a member of the Alumni Board, I would like to see an increase in our membership. As a member of the Legacy Scholarship Committee, I hope we can surpass our goal of 75 Legacy scholarships this year and as past president of Apache Belle Gold, I want to help establish a travel fund for the College’s best ambassadors—The Apache Belles!”

**PAST-PRESIDENT**—John Stephenson, Class of ‘64. A non-traditional student, John credits TJC with giving him the educational foundation to further pursue his goal to become a pharmacist. In 1968 he received his pharmaceutical degree from the University of Houston. He and his wife, Wayne, have been married 39 years, and have one daughter. The owners of Stephenson Pharmacy, they enjoy living on Lake Tyler, hunting, traveling, and volunteering to promote TJC.



**Favorite TJC Memory:** “That would be my instructors—I enjoyed all of them. Mr. Stiles’ botany classes, Mrs. Burton, my English instructor who taught me how to write research papers, and had the whole class over for dinner. Also, my chemistry instructor, Mr. Wicks, who managed to pound a good chemistry foundation into my head!”

**Goal:** “My goal is basically the same as it was last year when I was President of the Association. I would like to see more lifetime memberships this year and I want to encourage all former students to get involved with the Alumni Association. We added over 100 new members last year and we hope to see an even bigger increase this year as we help celebrate TJC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.”



## Class Notes

### 1932

☆☆ **Dr. James and Bonna Bess (Jones) Vaughn** are both graduates and loyal supporters of TJC. Jim is a retired Tyler physician and former TJC Trustee. They live in Tyler and are well-known for the generous contributions to promote education.

### 1942

☆ **Mary Jane McNamara**, retired librarian with TJC and the City of Tyler, is the current President of the Smith County Historical Society Archives and Museum. At TJC she was a member of Las Mascaras and Phi Theta Kappa.

### 1947

☆ **Carolyn Jones Cottrill** is retired and presently lives in Tyler. She has three children, Charles, Phillip, and Susanne. At TJC she majored in costume design and fashion illustration.

☆ **Robert B. Walters**, now retired, spent 43 years in the oil and gas industry as a Petroleum Landman. He and his wife, Gladys, have three children, Patti Lynn, Robert Mark, and Wendy Leigh. At TJC he played trumpet in the Apache Band and organized a tennis team.

### 1948

☆ **John D. Glass, Jr.** is a retired attorney in Tyler. He has four children, J. Duel Glass III, Kenneth Glass, Sharah G. Johnson, and Joel Glass.

☆ **Grady L. Hallman, MD**, TJC Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2000, is a cardiovascular surgeon in Houston. He and his wife, Martha, have three sons, Daniel and David and Charles. At TJC he was a member of the Apache Band, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Apache Chorus.

### 1949

☆ **Bryan Miller** is retired and resides in Duncanville. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children, Tracy and Melanie. At TJC he was a member of the basketball team.

### 1950

☆ **Ramon Orona** is retired from real estate in El Paso. He moved to the Dallas area in January 2000, where he is Manager of Customer Relations at Village Ford of Lewisville. At TJC he was a member of the basketball team.

☆ **Dr. Jose M. Palafox** is a retired pharmacist and currently resides in El



Paso. He and his wife, Dolores have six children. He writes, "I have a motorhome (Cruise Air)—the same type Chuck Yeager bought (Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in 1947). So, you see, he knew which are the fast motorhomes! I am retired but I want to see every corner of the good-ole USA!"

### 1951

☆ **Jimmy D. Browning** recently retired from teaching and farming. He currently lives in Haskell. His hobbies are ranching, traveling, and enjoying his seven grandchildren. At TJC he was a member of the basketball team.

☆☆ **Jesse James Richardson** is a retired coach and teacher living with his wife, Patsy, on Lake Murval. At TJC he was involved in athletics and a member of the basketball team.

### 1952

☆ **Smith Markham**, now retired, spent 35 years in the public school system (the last 30 in Richardson). He plays golf and is active at his church and the Meals on Wheels program. He and his wife, Jenny, have two children, Vicki and Rae. At TJC he was a member of the basketball team and Phi Theta Kappa.

☆ **Glenn R. Pearson**, a school superintendent for 31 years, has retired to Toledo Bend Lake at Hemphill. He and his wife, Annie, have two children, Terri and Paula.

At TJC he was a member of the basketball team.

### 1955

☆ **John T. Knight** is a real estate developer and has just completed a subdivision at Lake Fork called Little Mustang Cove. He is presently developing a 300+ lot subdivision and championship golf course on Highway 69 South of Greenville called Mallard Point. At TJC he was a member of the Apache Band.

**Larry Lewis** was inducted into the Sam Houston State University Hall of Honor on October 28, 2000. At TJC he lettered in football ('54). He transferred to Sam Houston State ('56) where he lettered in football and track (1956-58).

### 1956

☆☆ **Harold (Hal) Reagan** recently retired as Texas Government Affairs Manager for ALCOA after 33 years. He and his wife, Joy, reside in the Austin/Lake Travis area (Rockdale).

### 1957

☆ **Carole Estes Miller** and her husband, Earl, have two children, Melissa Kay and Merideth Carole. They currently live in McGregor.

### 1960

☆☆ **Jim T. "Butch" Wright** is the new Region VII Superintendent of the Year. Mr. Wright assumed the position of Bullard Independent School District Superintendent in April 1997. He strives to continue in various areas to improve Bullard ISD. He and his wife, **Lynnetta** ('61), have two sons.

### 1962

☆ **Gail McKinzie Clark** has returned to Tyler after living away since 1963 and hopes to become involved in civic and historical activities. Away from work, Gail spends her time researching family roots and enjoying her three grandchildren.



☆ **James L. England** is a conductor with the Union Pacific Railroad. He and his wife, Mary Jane, currently live in Longview. At TJC he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Math Club.

## 1964

☆☆ **Paul and Sue Carol (Payne)** Felty both graduated from TJC. They currently live in Perry, Georgia where Paul works in direct sales with Watkins Products. They have three children, Ember Ann, Mark Clayton, and Matthew Payne. At TJC Paul was a member of the Apache Band and Las Mascaras.

## 1967

**Dennis and Gwen Walker** ('79) both attended TJC. Dennis, owner of Walker & Associates Surveyors, Inc., Tyler, is currently serving as President of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors. Gwen is in private practice in Tyler as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

## 1968

☆☆ **Michael and Vickie Burks** ('69) are retired teachers returning to Tyler after careers in Longview.

## 1969

**Sherry L. Moore (Gray)** is a teacher in the Abilene Independent School District. Her grandchild, Grant Wilson Parker, was born July 5, 2000 in Abilene.

☆ **Dr. Cheryl Rogers**, instructor/director at TJC, is the incoming president of the Texas Association of Music Schools and has been honored by Texas College as one of the "Women Leading in the Arts" program.

## 1970

☆ **Roy E. Sulser** is currently in his 29<sup>th</sup> year of service with the Chapel Hill Independent School District as the District Director of Human Resources. He and his wife, Nan, have a daughter, Kimberly who is a 2000 TJC graduate. At TJC he was a member of the Apache Band.

## 1971

☆ **Billy George Hicks** is an Electrical Engineer for HIX Technologies, Inc. He and his wife Mamie have two children, Camille and Justin.

## 1974

☆ **Reginald L. Tyiska**, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Frat, Inc., is employed at Tritek Information Services as a computer tech. At TJC he was a member of the Apache Band.

## 1975

☆ **Pamela E. (Neal) Frost** returned to school part-time in the fall of 1995. She graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington with a BA degree in communications, December 16, 2000. She and her husband, Jack, have two children, Ashley and Amy. At TJC Pamela was a member of the Apache Belles and Zeta Phi Omega.

☆ **Julia Shelton** is a teacher in the Allen Independent School District. Rusty, her husband of 25 years, is VP of Customer Service at Alcatel and attended TJC 1972-73. They have two children, Lindsay (19), a sophomore at The University of Texas at Austin and Claire (15), a sophomore at Allen High School.

☆ **Nancy J. (Howard) Stewart** recently returned to East Texas and is a Dental Hygiene instructor at TJC. She lived in Bryan for 18 years and was employed in private practice. She and her husband, Richard, have three children, Pennye, Summer, and Rick.

## 1977

**David McGregor** is employed as a software consultant at Exe Technologies. He has two sons that are currently attending TJC.

**Cyndi Williams**, outstanding Texas Playwright, is a Founding Core Member of Austin Script Works. Her plays have been produced by Austin Script Works, Public Domain Theatre

Company, Refraction Arts Project, 2Texans Productions, Aunt Lulu Plays, and North Harris College, and include *Fish*, *Woman at the Window*, *American Arcana*, *Cowpeople*, *The Deep Piney Woods*, *Hey Cow!*, *Unraveling*, *Cars and Bars*, and *The Lights Are On*. Cyndi is the winner of the Larry L. King Outstanding Texas Playwright award for 1999 and the Best New Play Award for the 1999 State Theatre Harvest Festival of New American Plays.

She received both awards for her play *A Name for a Ghost to Mutter*, which premiered January 12 at the State Theatre in Austin. A love for the theatre was developed at TJC where Cyndi was a member of Las Mascaras.

## 1981

☆☆ **Steven and Sharon (Hendricks) Nelms** both graduated from TJC. Steven is the Director of Choral Music at McKinney High School North. They have one child, Bethany, age 11. At TJC they were both members of Harmony and Understanding.

☆☆ **Mark and Dolores (Eden) Schueler** both attended TJC and met on campus while working at SAGA Food Service (TJC cafeteria). Mark was the dishwasher and Dolores served the food. They were married in Rockwall in 1981 and enjoy camping. They have three children, Jessica, Derek, and Mark Jr., who study Tae Kwon Do and have taken several classes under TJC's Vincent Nguyen.

## 1982

☆ **Peter S. Molitor** is employed as a material program manager at Raytheon and has just completed a two-year tour in Australia with the company. He and his wife, Veronica ('83) live in Allen and have three children, William, Andrew, and Stephanie. At TJC he was a member of the Petroleum Club.



## 1983

★ **Traci L. Kenner** is an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tyler. At TJC she was a member of the Apache Belles and Zeta Phi Omega.

☆ **Charles (Chuck) Sowders** is employed as a Program Manager at Vertex, a telecommunications company, in Kilgore. At TJC he was a member of the Student Senate.

## 1984

★★ **Terry and Marcy Cox** currently live and work in Tyler. Terry is the Director for Great American Opportunities. Marcy is currently enrolled at TJC, part-



time with four semesters completed and a 4.0 GPA. She works full-time for Cox Communications as a Regional Support Supervisor and was nominated for *Who's Who Among College Students*.

★ **Joseph William Johnson** married Mary Martin from Seabrook, Texas on November 11, 2000 and now resides in The Woodlands. He is the Landscape Supervisor at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. At TJC he was a member of the Apache Marching Band and Pi Kappa Alpha.

## 1986

**Alicia M. Abrams (Christman)** is a web designer at Abrams Studios in Santee, California. She and her husband, Doug, have one child, Matt.

## 1987

★★ **Jason G. Baird** and his wife, Felice, have two children, Joseph and Julie. They currently live in Windthorst where Jason works in dairy marketing with Lone Star Milk. At TJC he was a member of the Student Senate, Sig Ep, the Young Republicans, and Student Body VP.

**Mark A. English** is employed at Gilmer Independent School District as a Secondary Teacher. He and his wife, Jamie, have two children, Caleb and Rachel. At TJC he was a member of Tri-C and the Apache Marching Band.

## 1988

**Tracy (Starnes) Bailey** and her husband, Lance, are the new parents of Hayden Christopher Bailey born on October 28. They live in Walls, Mississippi. Tracy is employed by J.B. Hunt in Memphis, Tennessee. Fran Starnes (Secretary, Financial Services at TJC) and husband Glynn are the proud new grandparents.

★ **Rebecca F. Faulds** is a Speech/Theatre Instructor at TJC. She and her husband, Timothy, have one child, Erik.

☆ **DeAnna Jones Guidry** and her husband, Tim, have two children, Brittany and Courtney. They currently live in Burleson.

## 1989

★ **Nancy Rivera-Crisp** married Dr. George O. Crisp, Jr. in September 1995. He is Medical Director of the Hyperbaric Medicine Unit at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital and was on the TJC respiratory program board for years. Her son, Herbert (age 16), is a junior at Robert E. Lee High School. Nancy took early retirement seven years ago due to a neck injury and is now a full-time wife and mom. She is a "Big Sister" in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tyler. She had a great time at TJC in the criminal justice program and enjoyed the experience. "Life is Great!"

## 1990

☆ **Stacey Bays (Bosley)** and husband Brad live in the Azalea District of Tyler with their young son Brit. She is currently a member of Apache Belle Gold. At TJC she was a member of the Apache Belles and Phi Theta Kappa.

## 1992

**Kari Kuenemann** just moved back to Tyler and has been promoted to Senior Account Representative.

## 1993

**Christa (Kimlicko) Jones** and **Judson L. Jones** ('95) recently accepted the B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Actress and Actor in a Drama. The husband and wife team are members of the Dirigo Group and received the awards for their performances in *Desire* (which won Outstanding Production of a Drama).

## 1997

★ **Jennifer Patterson**, granddaughter of Emma Lou and Kenneth Prater, teaches third and fourth grade music at Pine Tree Intermediate School in Longview.

## 1998

☆ **Daniel James Odom** is employed at Precious Moments in Time in the photo and video department. He currently lives in Laneville. At TJC he majored in EMT-B.

☆ **Jami K. Shaw** is a physical education coach in Kilgore. At TJC she was an athletic trainer.

## 2000

☆ **Brian E. Abercrombie** is employed by S & B Engineers of Houston as a contract draftsman.

☆ **Stacey L. Henry** is currently in her second semester of the Nursing program (BSN) at The University of Texas at Tyler.

☆ **Jaime Landrum Kochan** recently received her license to practice dental hygiene after taking the Western Regional Dental Examiners Test and The National Dental Boards Test. She and her husband, Joey, reside in Terrell.

☆ **Sara Ann Plocheck** is currently attending The University of Texas at Austin. She transferred 65 hours from TJC and is a junior at UT. Sara plans to take the MCAT this April and



graduate with a BS degree in microbiology and continue on to medical school. She writes, "I would not be doing so well academically if I had not attended TJC. TJC is the reason why I will be a physician one day."

☆ **LouAnn Huff Sims** and husband, Joe, have built a new home in Wills Point. She worked part-time at Aetna while completing her associate degree at TJC, and is now employed full-time with Aetna working from her home as a medical claims processor.

☆ **Kasandra (Matthews) Sunday** is presently employed at The University of Texas Health Center as a Radiologic Technologist. She has two children, Timothy Shane (8) and Justin Lynn (5).

☆ **Michael R. Templeton** is presently employed in the Tyler Independent School District as a Special Education Aide/Coach. He has two daughters, Courtney (17) and Brittany (13).

☆ **Kellye A. Vulgamott** is currently attending Texas A & M University majoring in biomedical science. At TJC she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, AAUW, and a Presidential Scholar.

☆ **Matthew O. Walker** is enrolled at LeTourneau University in the BBA program. His wife, Jennifer, is attending TJC this spring.

☆ **Kimberly Denise Walters** is employed by Mother Frances Trinity Clinic as a medical lab technician. She recently moved to a new home in Kilgore and married Eddie Breashears.

☆ **Kendrick D. Widemon** is presently attending The University of Texas at Tyler majoring in biology and planning to become a physical therapist. While at TJC, he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

☆ **Victoria K. Wilson** is presently attending Stephen F. Austin State University.

☆ **Chrys M. Wynn** has submitted her application to Weber State University, Ogden, Utah for acceptance into the Distance Learning Program, Nuclear Medicine.

## Marriages

### 1976

Diane Davis and Rick Casey, Tyler.

### 1987

Kristin Lee Abbey and Ranji John George, Plano

### 1988

Tammy Kay Mallory and Walter Julius Geisler ('87), Tyler

### 1990

Con'Sandra Dotson and Levorn Hutchinson, Jr. ('81), Tyler  
Bernadette Spencer Head and Kyle E. Hackler, Dallas

### 1993

Amy Givens and Kevin McKain, Tyler  
Loretta Jean Snow and Randal David Foster, Kingwood

### 1994

Stephanie Williams and Daryl Blakley, Tyler  
Amber Dae Haywood and Gary Lee Carter II, Plano  
Leigh Ann Langford and William Stanford Socia, Las Colinas  
Carla Dennard Stephens and Anthony Scott Lee, Tyler  
Mariellen Angela Roberson and Perry Leonard Speaker, Belton  
Shannon Renee Settles and David Wray Starr, Tyler.

### 1995

Kristina DeeAnn Nasits and Manuel Jason Duke, Dallas  
Stacy Lee Gravley and John Mark McLean, Norman, Oklahoma

### 1996

Carla D'Nan Bass and Rafael Donoso Naranjo, Quito, Ecuador  
Shannon Leslie Marie Smith and Scott Edward Kowalik, Tyler  
Cindy Kay Wilkerson and Timothy W. Haire, Lindale  
April Tennille Tompkins and Shawn Michael Ishee, Tyler

### 1998

Casey Ann Campbell and Garth Hudson Brantley, Maryland

Ashley Horn and Emerson Arnold ('99), Tyler

LaSonja Caprice Oliver and Richard LaMont Gipson, Tyler

Chris Renee Reddick and Kevin Daniel Shipp ('00), Tyler

Jennifer Elaine Hendrix and Kelly Blake Cox, Tyler

Marlo Anne Thompson and Michael Jarrod Bitter, Houston

### 1999

Angela Kathrin Brewer and Robert Bradley Hawkins ('96), Lindale

Elizabeth Rebecca Camacho and Ryan Douglas Hinch, Tyler

Angela Manigeh Gandy and Cory Dan McLean, Mesquite

Kimberlea Shea Goode and Casey Britt Shaw ('97), Tyler

Holly Brooke Reddin and Matthew Barclay Izard ('00), Tyler

Amber LaShea Taliaferro and Bryan Matthew Dickerson ('00), Tyler

Tiffany Jacques and James Crawford, Tyler

Lou Ann Tindall and Nat Ayers, San Marcos

### 2000

Stacy Michelle Causey and Brian Kiley Whisenhunt ('98), Whitehouse

Amanda Carol O'Quinn and Dustan Clay Whitesides ('99), Tyler

Ashley Tomlin and Justin Rowe ('98), Tyler

Dana Denise Lindsey and Justin Wayne Thorn, Tyler

Amanda Correa and Rothertron D. Matlock, Tyler

Kelli J. Day and Joshua L. Collins, Tyler

Stephanie Pirtle and Todd Holmes, Canton

Kimberly Walters and Eddie Breashears, Kilgore

Raychel Rebekah Shaw and Shaun Michael Shaw, Grapeland

Amy Jo Rogers and Brandon Porter Johnston ('97), Tyler

Jion Marie Duran and Michael D. Keel ('97), Lake Palestine

Joyle Kristina Berry and Danny Ray Rosenberg, Tyler



Angie Goodwin and Robert Brown, Tyler

## 2001

Jillian Lindy Hart and Jeremy Eaves, Tyler

Samantha Ann Roden and Michael Chad Crow, New Chapel Hill

Miranda Rose Perez and John Wayne Greenlee, New Chapel Hill

BreeAnn Workman and Clinton Neely ('98). Tyler

## Memorials

### 1935

Jewell Mitchell, January 7, 2001, Chandler

### 1948

Walter F. Untersee, Sr., January 11, 2001, Tyler

### 1949

Edmond Patrick (Pat) McKenna, January 2, 2001, Dallas

### 1951

Ira Johnson Henderson, December 3, 2000, Lindale

### 1954

John M. Mackey, December 30, 2000, Tyler

Rachel "Jackie" McDonald, October 17, 2000, Tyler

Betty Howell Vickery, December 31, 2000, Dallas

Letcha Gayle Wagg, January 8, 2001, Denton

### 1955

Don Boyd, December 20, 2000, Corpus Christi

### 1958

Michael Ray Cole, October 19, 2000, Tyler

Alfred Collins, January 26, 2001, Whitehouse

### 1959

Jack V. Murphy, October 18, 2000, Gladewater

## 1970

Jerry Graham, December 26, 2000, Longview

Paul Gene Moore, March 22, 1997, Abilene

Timothy Wayne "Tim" Pottkotter, October 16, 2000, Dallas

## 1976

Craig Lynch, January 26, 2001, Bullard

## 1979

George Grant, October 8, 2000, Tyler

Johnny Sherwood, October 23, 2000, Bridge City

## 1981

Felecia Diane "Fifi" Moore, January 12, 2001, Tyler

## 1982

James C. Estes, November 19, 2000, Tyler

## 1983

George Gail, Jr., December 8, 2000, Palestine

## 1985

Jerry James Gentry, January 6, 2001, Troup

## 1986

Sarah Ann Dillard, January 11, 2001, Tyler

## 1997

Barbara Ruth Robertson, October 10, 2000, Conroe

## 2000

Dana Gail L. Gordan, December 31, 2000, Bullard

## Friends of the College

Lester Van Pelt III, October 9, 2000, Austin

W. R. Billy Gentry, October 11, 2000, Tyler

Herman Engel, February 21, 2001, Tyler

## TJC Family Memorials

Colonel Tom Akins, December 13, 2000, Tyler

Robert Louis "Blue Bird" Mack, December 25, 2000, Troup

Eugene L. Miller, November 21, 2000, Tyler

Evelyn Miller, February 6, 2001, Tyler

Clyde Wolford, March 3, 2001, Arlington

Dr. Blanche Prejean, 92, former TJC journalism department chair, died February 1, in Tyler. Prejean taught journalism and directed student publications at TJC from 1951 to 1981. She also served the College as director of college relations. She earned a master of arts degree from Stephen F. Austin State College in 1952 and bachelor of arts degrees from Texas Wesleyan College in 1933, the University of Colorado in 1962 and East Texas State University in 1964. Prejean also held the distinction of being the first woman to earn a doctorate degree from the College of Communication at The University of Texas at Austin, which she received in 1968.

During her time at TJC she was named one of the top 10 journalism professors in the United States by Texas Press Women. She served as scholarship chairman for the Texas Press Women and had served on the executive committee of the Texas Chest Hospital Foundation and the development board of the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler. Prejean was honored by the TJC Alumni Association with the establishment of a TJC Presidential Scholarship in her name in 1989. A Presidential Scholarship in her name was also established at the University of Texas School of Journalism.



# BACK PAGE

by Pat Logan

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT . . . WE'RE 75!

Many people are astonished to hear that Tyler Junior College is 75 years old. It is one of the oldest junior colleges in Texas and, in fact, in the United States. During the rest of this school year and into the next, the College will be celebrating its birthday.

I was employed at TJC when the College celebrated its 60th birthday. The work we did preparatory to the 60th anniversary was hard, but those involved in it experienced a sense of being part of ongoing tradition.

The time was memorable to me personally in another way. I was expecting my fourth grandchild and sure enough, she arrived in College Station on September 16, a day just prior to Founder's Day, September 17. For several years I had trouble remembering which was my granddaughter's birthday and which was TJC's birthday.

I am probably prejudiced, but to me Tyler Junior College has been—and is being—a real influence in the life of the city.

Drive around the town and look at the parking sticker or hang tag on vehicles at random. About every tenth automobile or truck will show a TJC permit. It may be on the vehicle driven by a full-time student or that of an older person who is taking courses just for fun, but it indicates how widely the College permeates the community.

As for the quality of the teaching, it is second to none, and that is a strong conviction of mine.

POTPOURRI: Harking back to the ice storm which coated our power lines and gave us trouble for so many days; it occurred to me as the days wore on that *outage* and *outrage* are very close in spelling . . .

Because my e-mail machine was acting up a few weeks ago, I had to spend what seemed like hours on the telephone, trying to get help from my support system. Sent all over the compass, I told my sad story time and again. And I would be put on hold and listened to music until I thought my arm would fall off. I did not get much assistance with the e-mail, but I am able to report that the Corporate Call Center (wherever that is) listens to different music. Everywhere else plays classical but at CCC they prefer the music that is popularly called "soft favorites."

Little towns have always held a fascination for me. If traveling, I had much rather go the "back way" through the small towns than on the Interstate. The Interstate is quicker but the little towns are far more interesting. Going through Palestine, from Tyler, one passes through Pert. Pert is really more of a village. I like its name.

Between Madisonville and Bryan is the town of North Zulch. At one time, I think there was a South Zulch, though I don't know what happened to it. As you travel on Highway 39, between Normangee and Highway 21, you will spy a sign by the railroad tracks that says "West Zulch." Then after a time you come to a sign that says "East Zulch." You cannot help but wonder, "Are those really West North Zulch and East North Zulch? If so, where would South North Zulch be and the biggest mystery of all, North North Zulch?"

Fort Spunky was a town in the southeastern corner of Hood County. I had ancestors in and around that locale. The story goes that Fort Spunky got its name from the number of fist fights carried on there. Fort Spunky faded away by the beginning of the 20th century.

Sipe Springs in Comanche County is pronounced "Seep" Springs because of course that's what springs do. I have lived in little towns and villages and maybe that is why I like them. I lived for a period in Proctor in Comanche County as a child of nine or ten, and I have fond memories.

Cotton seed was kept in a tiny building and it was great to play in . . . Tow sacks of peanuts stacked in a high mountain—that served as a wall in a fort and one could climb up and peer over the top, sighting the "enemy" . . . The old well we drew water from . . . Pig-killing day in the autumn, cold and a fire blazing by the meat storing shed where the salted meat would be hung . . . And the horse that ran away with me and the cow which had a terrible disposition but gave the richest milk . . .

We were poor but it didn't matter because we were wealthy in other ways. 🏠

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*Pat Logan served TJC as an instructor of journalism and English and director of information services from 1973 until 1988. Her Back Page column is a regular feature of the Apache magazine.*



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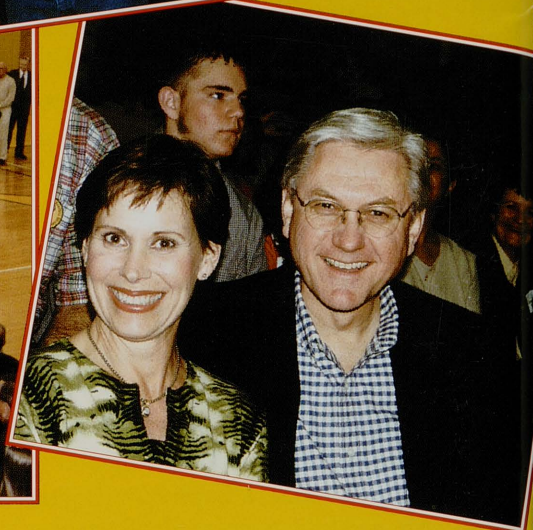
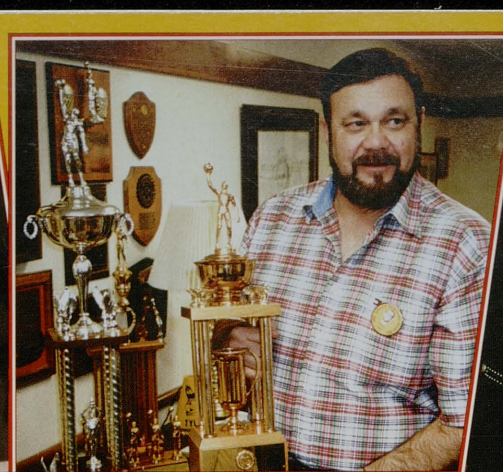
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